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The Centennial History

OF

Camden Methodism.

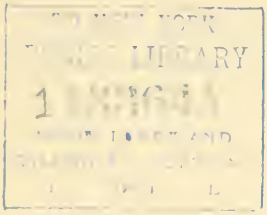
The Official Authorized Edition

Comprising the Salient Facts of the Sixteen Methodist Episcopal Churches of Camden, N. J., between the years of 1809 to 1909.

Dedicated to Our Successors.

In Memory of

OUR BELOVED FATHERS.



Camden, N. J.:
R. H. Freeman & Co., Printers.
1910.

PREFACE.

One hundred years marks a great epoch in any life. A centennial celebration is always a great event. Perhaps there is none more vitally significant than the centenary of a church life. One hundred years having sped and gone since the beginning of a church in Camden, N. J., it seems that more than ordinary attention should be given thereto.

In April, 1809, under the direction of Rev. Richard Sneath a class was formed in Camden with James Duer as the first leader. From the nucleus of seven persons the church was started, until now there are about 7,000 members and sixteen Methodist Episcopal churches. The Methodist Episcopal Church being the first of all churches in this city—save a Friends' Meeting House, on Mt. Vernon street, built in 1801—the history of the city cannot be related without generous reference thereto.

The Centennial having been appropriately celebrated with the co-operation of all the churches, it seemed very necessary that this great event should have more than a passing notice. Hence, there was a determination by the Official Boards of all these churches to give the history of this event permanent form. Hence, historical data having been contributed by each of the sixteen churches, the collation of all this material into one book became a logical necessity.

Each church appointed a member of the Quarterly Conference to write the history of that individual church. Consequently this is a book of many authors. Different committees also were appointed relative to printing, securing cuts of preachers, electrotypes of the churches, and a multitude of other details so necessary for the completion of this most important work. This, therefore, has been an illustration of the old proverb that declares: "Many hands make light work." However, it has required a great deal of patient labor and much of painstaking effort for the completion of this book. It has not been done in a brief period. It has required several years of labor to secure the co-operation, write the histories, collect the data and arrange the work. Consequently, the work should have a large appreciation in the hearts and minds of the Methodist people. Of course mistakes will be seen, and many places where improvement could be made. Nevertheless, under the existing circumstances this is the best that could be done. Hence, to generous and charitable readers we commend this work.

This is not a money making scheme. The book, at its cost price, is to be given to each purchaser. No church, therefore, will derive any revenue therefrom. The only aim and object in publishing this work is a preservation of historical data as a source of information that will cause many children to rise up and call their parents blessed and serve as an inspiration to other laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. We believe, as this book is read, many who have been blessed by the power and influence of Camden Methodism, will be constrained to say: "The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad."

This book, beside having many pages devoted to liter-

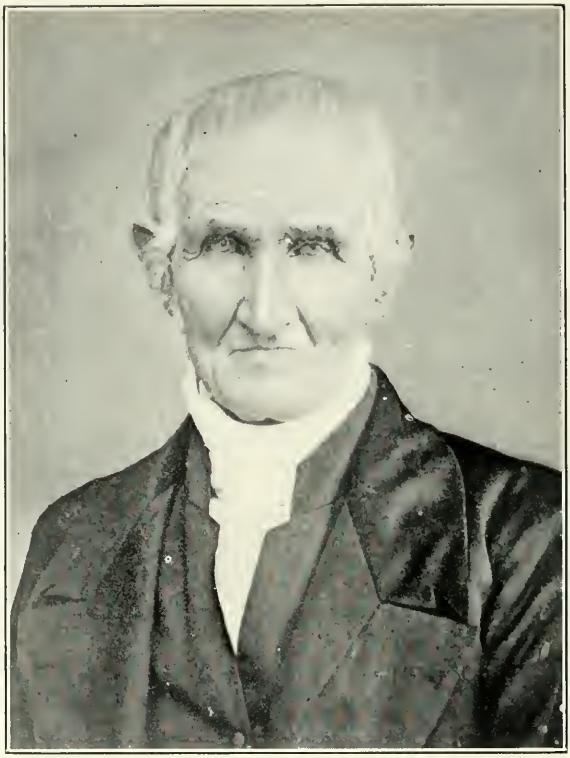
ature, is a splendid picture gallery. The electrotypes of the different houses of worship will give to one, by the power of observation, a splendid idea of the steady growth of Methodism in Camden. The cuts of the different preachers will bring before the mind an array of men who have led the hosts of God in this city from victory unto victory. Some of them were indeed great captains in the army of the Lord. They marched out under the blood-stained banner of King Immanuel, with the shout of victory in every command, and the ring of conquest in every step. The pictures of the present Quarterly Conferences will preserve for the church the faces and names of the men and women who are now to the front in the Lord's battle, and who are now laying the foundation upon which succeeding generations must build.

To every one, therefore, who has contributed in any way to this work, gratitude is due. The reader is urged to peruse these pages in such a way so as to be inspired to emulate the example of them, who out of their poverty have made us rich, who out of their sacrifices and privations have brought us salvation and comforts, who out of their meagre advantages and few privileges have brought to us glorious opportunities. Surely such a perusal will make this book worth its weight in gold, and in this spirit it is commended to the public.

And now as we, at this the first centennial, are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, in the faith and works of our fathers, by which we are encouraged to lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us, so that we may run with patience the race that is set before us, so likewise let us hope that when the Bi-Centennial of Camden Methodism shall dawn, our

faith and works will bring a similar cloud of witnesses to our children and successors whereby they will be able to demonstrate—

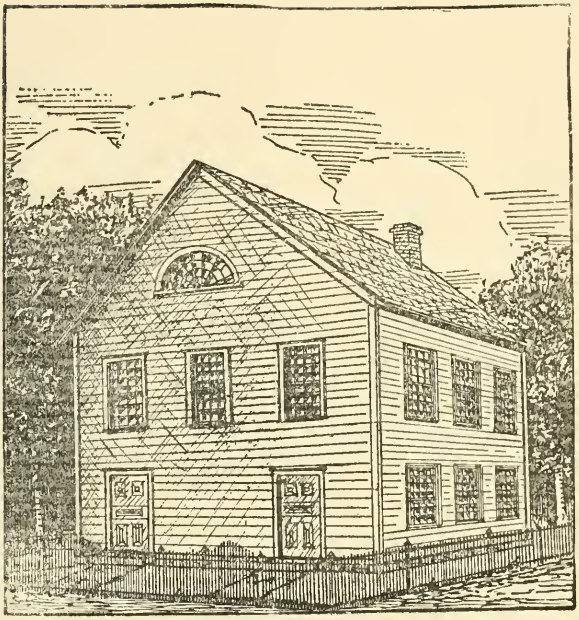
"Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God."



BENJAMIN FISLER

The first man preaching the Gospel of Christ, under the Methodist dispensation in Southern New Jersey. From his preaching the Methodist Church in Camden really started. The following verse from a poem by Rev. E. H. Stokes, refers to the work of this servant of God:

One silent man, almost unknown,
With joyful heart, yet weeping eyes,
Came through the southern pines alone
And lit the lamp that flushed the skies.
His name was Fisler! Benjamin,
Like Rachel's son, beloved so.
He brought the light, and those in sin
Saw paths of light begin to glow:
Then others o'er the river's tide,
In bounding bark, with dipping oar,
Came on to tell how Jesus died,
And told the story o'er and o'er.



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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HISTORY OF THE

First Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

1809 was truly the "annus mirabilis." That year chronicles the advent of the immortal Alfred Tennyson, the never-to-be-forgotten Oliver Wendell Holmes, the Grand Old Man, William Ewart Gladstone, and the best type of American manhood that ever lived—Abraham Lincoln.

These facts alone would have made 1809 a wonderful year. But the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Camden must have its share of glory in that great epoch.

In April, 1809, the Holy Spirit led the Rev. Richard Sneath, who traveled the Gloucester circuit, to organize a class in the unpretentious village of Camden, then familiarly known as "Billy Cooper's Ferry." James Duer, a member of St. George Methodist Episcopal Church, of Philadelphia, having moved to Camden, was chosen the leader of the class. Seven persons constituted the class: James and Elizabeth Duer, Henry and Susanna Sawn, Wm. and Martha Price and Phebe Peters. Hence we—

"See how great a flame aspires,
Kindled by a spark of grace."

The first settlers of Camden were Friends, who built a meeting house on Mt. Vernon street in 1801. This building stands intact to-day, and doubtless the Camden Historical Society will safeguard and preserve it to posterity.

The Methodist Episcopal Church preceded all other denominations—save the Friends—by at least eight years. The Baptists were the next to follow as workers in the Lord's vineyard in Camden.

When this regiment of the Lord's army known as Methodists camped at Billy Cooper's Ferry, there was no barrack for their shelter. In a certain sense they had to bivouac on the Lord's battlefield. However, God is ever mindful of His own, and consequently better things were provided for these heroic few.

Having secured the use of the old academy, Sixth and Market streets, they had the beginning of a church home. Here every alternate Wednesday night the Gospel was preached, and every Thursday night prayer meeting was held. But at once satanic opposition to the Methodists was manifest. There was an unsuccessful attempt to oust this little band from the academy as their headquarters. But as it was written of God's people in ancient times: "He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye," so likewise these emissaries of his Satanic majesty suffered the recoil of their own action, and God's people remained in the academy until they could build for themselves more favorable quarters.

When this little handful of people conceived the idea of building a church they undertook a Herculean task. But being possessed of an indomnitable courage and an invincible zeal their efforts were crowned with great suc-

JAMES DUER
(From an old oil painting)

cess. Great obstacles had to be surmounted when they launched this project of building a church. An attempt was made to purchase a lot from an old woman nearly a hundred years old. But this old antagonist to the Methodists determined no lot of her land should be sold for the erection of a Methodist Episcopal church thereon. And when she was besought to sell the lot she exclaimed, with all the vehemence of her nature: "No, no, the Methodists are only a nuisance here; they shall have no lot from me to build on."

However, in November, 1809, a lot was purchased from Josiah Cooper, at the northwest corner of Fourth and Federal streets. The price paid for this lot was $70, and the deed was drawn by the venerable Josiah Atkinson. Every brother took a subscription paper to collect funds for the house. And so successful were they that on November 25, 1810, a wooden structure thirty feet square was dedicated to the service of Almighty God as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Camden. Rev. James Totten, being the Presiding Elder, conducted the dedicatory service. This church attracted great attention. The service of dedication was indeed a great one. Several joined the church by certificate that day, and the effects of the service were profoundly felt by the community.

James Duer, John Petherbridge, Henry Sawn and William Price were the first trustees elected. On March 1, 1810, the trustees authorized John Petherbridge to transact the entire business of the church. He purchased materials, paid the bills and managed the whole affair. He and James Duer were so indefatigable in their solicitations for money that by the year 1812 the entire cost of the structure was paid. Thus the early Methodists of

Camden set all succeeding generations an example of possessing churches free of all financial encumbrance.

This house so wonderfully dedicated to the service of the Lord, like Solomon's temple, was filled with the glory of the Lord. A "watch night" service was held in the new church on New Year's eve. For some reason unaccountable, they were having a dull time. About 10 o'clock some of the older brethren suggested that they "break up and go home." But James Duer cried, "No, brethren, that will not do, let us pray again." Phebe Peters was called upon to pray. The heavens bent, the windows of God's power house were opened and the baptism of the Holy Spirit fell upon the entire congregation, and the church seemed to be filled with the Divine Presence and the members' hearts overflowed with love and joy. The meeting did not "break up" till nearly daylight. From this time on the church progressed in strength, and gradually increased in numbers.

So marked was the progress of the church that in 1818 it became necessary to build side galleries thereto, in order to accommodate the people. Though this alteration was a considerable expense, nevertheless, the people gave so cheerfully that this cost was also met in its entirety.

In 1819 the progressive spirit of these Methodists was clearly seen. Then a camp meeting project seized them. In July, of that year, James Duer was authorized to collect money for this purpose. This he did to the amount of $53. This tent was taken to the woods, and the first camp meeting in the State of New Jersey was instituted by the Methodists of Camden. Those who left their homes for this camp meeting did not go to be idle, nor for "a frolic," nor for a "feast." They took

a few bundles of straw and blankets for beds, cold ham and bread or crackers for their food. But the days and nights of the camp meeting were periods of isolation from the detracting and distracting world, and seasons of being face to face with God. Here was where souls were converted, backsliders reclaimed and believers built up in their most holy faith.

In the early history of this church, a number of times great tidal waves of Pentecostal influence swept through the church and over the community. A very remarkable revival occurred during the administration of Father Walker—1832 and 1833. During the summer of 1832 that dreadful scourge, the cholera, prevailed in Philadelphia, Camden and various other places. The people, standing face to face with death, were susceptible to the influence of gospel preaching. The preachers declared the whole counsel of God and thousands were saved by Divine grace. During this revival one night a great display of Divine power was exhibited. "When the mourners were invited to the altar they crowded up, of all ages and both sexes, until the large altar was filled in lines three deep! They were then separated by placing benches in different parts of the house, so that all were accommodated. The whole house was like a battlefield—the slain of the Lord lay all over the house! Shouts of praise and cries of 'power, fire and glory,' 'hallelujah,' filled the house with sounds which must have been awful to the wicked." This description by one whose name is not known, clearly shows how the arm of the Lord was revealed among the Methodists of Camden.

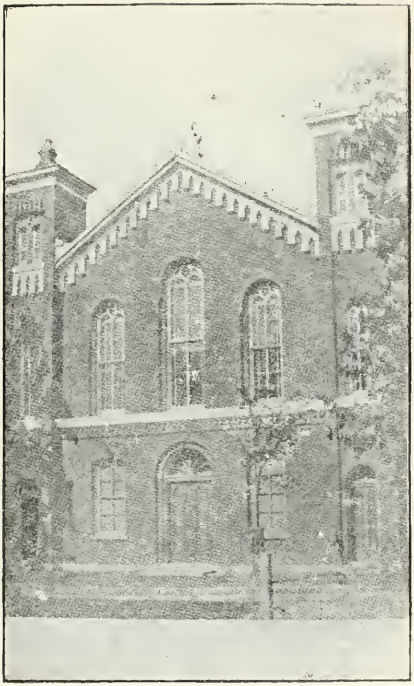
Originally, the whole State of New Jersey was one district, and belonged to the Philadelphia Conference. Afterwards the State was divided into two districts. The whole of West Jersey embraced what was called the West

Jersey Dstriet. James Totten was Presidisg Elder of this district. The town of Camden was included in the Gloucester circuit of this district, and, as already stated, Richard Sneath was Preacher-in-charge of that circuit. Later the Burlington Circuit was formed, of which Camden was a part.

In the spring of 1833 Rev. Edward Page was appointed senior preacher of what was known then as the Camden Circuit. Rev. D. W. Bartine was the junior preacher. By the Christian co-operation of these two preachers a great work was accomplished. In the autumn of that year a revival broke out, continuing for six weeks, when about one hundred were added to the church. Then it was decided that Camden should not be on the circuit, but should be a charge by itself. Rev. D. W. Bartine was retained as the preacher, and this eloquent young man had the honor of becoming the first pastor of "Camden Station." This responsible position Brother Bartine continued to sustain until the Conference of 1834, when, according to the time limit, he received another appointment.

Then Rev. William Granville was appointed to Camden Station. Steamboat and railroad facilities had now brought many people hither. With the influx of the population there had been added a great deal of strength, numerical and financial, to the church. Mr. Granville was just the man to lead the people at this period of time. There was a cry: "We must build a new church!" Consequently the time was ripe for such action. The preacher in charge was a splendid general. He led this host from victory unto victory.

A lot of ground on the S. W. cor. of 3rd St. and Taylor



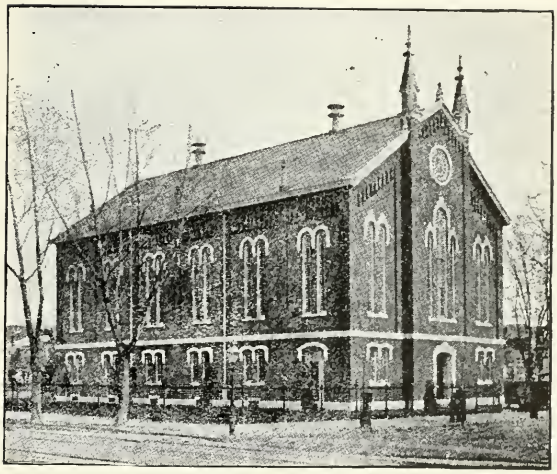
FIRST M. E. CHURCH, 1834.
(Old Third Street.)

Ave., between Bridge Ave. and Federal St., was purchased. The old church and lot was sold for $775, and subscriptions taken to make up the sum of thousands! Then a splendid brick structure 45 by 55 feet, with wide galleries on the two sides and front end, was built. There was also a basement in which a large room was equipped for Sunday-school work. The pulpit platform was neatly carpeted, the church nicely illuminated. The whole church within and without was such an ornament to the community that it is safe to say, "There was great joy in the city." The aged members, who had witnessed the consecration of their first temple, built of wood 30 feet square, in the year of 1810, now had their mouths filled with laughter and their hearts with joy as they beheld in the year 1834 the dedication of this splendid brick temple of such mammoth proportions. When this church was dedicated the Presiding Elder was the Rev. R. W. Petherbridge, a son of John and Mary Petherbridge, whose names will never die in connection with Camden Methodism. Of course this was a great service. The congregation was immense, the singing delightful, and the preaching worthy of the occasion. The administration of Mr. Granville was, for a greater part of the time, very prosperous. His praiseworthy efforts obtained for him a large share of the esteem and confidence of the members of his charge and of the Annual Conference. In fact, the entire community highly respected him. But during the second year of his charge in Camden he became dissatisfied, withdrew from the charge, and the Methodist Episcopal Church. Subsequently he united with the Protestant Episcopal Church, where he became an acceptable minister.

In the spring of 1842, at the close of Rev. J. K. Shaw's pastorate, a great event took place in the First Methodist

Episcopal Church of Camden. For the first time the New Jersey Annual Conference assembled in this church. Bishop Waugh was the presiding officer, and W. C. Hudson was the secretary. The scene at the close of the Conference is described as a very pathetic one. Bishop Waugh, as a servant of God, addressed the hearts and consciences of his fellow laborers in the vineyard in such a way as to prepare them to accept the appointments they were about to receive with Christian resignation. Each went to his field of labor with renewed zeal and quickened faith. And Camden Methodism, for the first time, felt the sweet, salutary influence of an Annual Conference. And every home that entertained these servants of God felt the blessing they had received was far in excess of the labor it had cost. At that Conference Rev. J. L. Linhart was appointed to the Camden station, and under his ministry the work of God grew and prevailed.

A bird's eye view of the Mother of Camden Methodism reveals the fact that she has sheltered her children under the protecting wings of four church edifices. The original edifice was built and dedicated November, 1810. It was located on Fourth and Federal streets. The second structure was located on Third street and Taylor avenue. It was dedicated December 14, 1834. It was totally destroyed by fire on November 20, 1867. The third building, known as Third Street Methodist Episcopal Church at the corner of Third and Mickle streets, was erected in 1868. The lecture room was opened December 30, 1868. The church was dedicated September 2, 1869. On account of so much noise, consequent to so much railroad traffic, a more favorable location became a necessity. Hence this property was sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, for the sum of $65,000, and a handsome lot on the corner of Sixth and Stevens streets was purchased for the new



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1868
(Third Street M. E. Church)

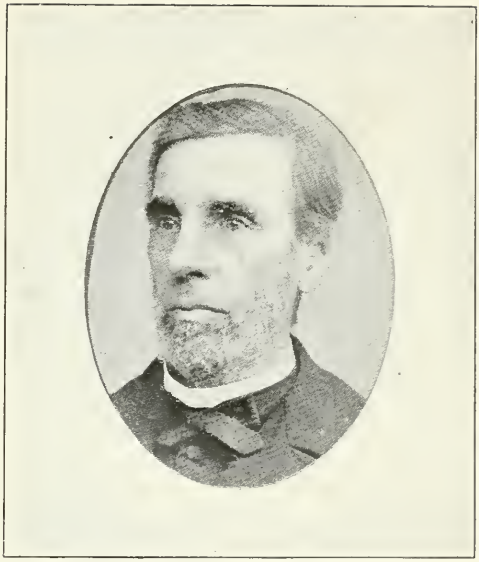
church. A handsome edifice was erected thereon. The lecture room was opened in June and the church was dedicated October 21, 1893. The present property of this Mother church, which is so delightful for situation, beautiful for architecture, well planned for work and worship, is estimated to be worth $150,000. On this property there is not a cent of indebtedness.

March, 1894, the mortgage on this new church building, which was dedicated October 21, 1893, was $47,378. Since then a handsome organ, costing $6,500 was purchased. $1,000 was received for the old organ, leaving a net cost of $5,500. Hence since 1894 the entire debt has been $52,878. There has been paid on this debt, interest aggregating more than $23,000. Therefore, in debt and interest this church has paid $75,878 during the last fifteen years. The mortgage was cancelled on March 1st, 1909, and a service of great rejoicing was held in the church March 7. Surely the members of First Church can say: "The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad."

The history of First Church can never be properly written without special mention of several of her pastors. Rev. Abram K. Street, familiarly known as "Father Street," stands high on the roll of honor. He entered the ministry of the New Jersey Conference, 1831, was translated to Glory, August 15, 1898—91 years of age—after having been fifty years in the effective work of the ministry and after having been sixty-seven years a minister of the Gospel of the Son of God. When Rev. John K. Shaw was Presiding Elder, Rev. A. K. Street was pastor. And through the instrumentality of "Father Street," with the co-operation of his Presiding Elder, the remaining debt on the church was entirely cancelled.

Hence by his ministry First Church took a great step forward in being free of all encumbrance. His entire pastorate has written his name among the best ministers of this charge.

Rev. Charles H. Whitecar was twice pastor of this church. During his first pastorate, November 20, 1867, the second church was totally destroyed by fire. Under the leadership of this great minister, after consultation with James M. Cassady, of beloved memory, and a man always abounding in the work of the Lord, a meeting of the officials was called that very night. Thus while the ruins were smouldering, they determined to erect a new building and at once opened subscriptions for that purpose. During the time of the erection of the new church edifice, the Sunday services were held in a hall at Fourth and Arch streets, and the prayer meeting was held in the Second Presbyterian Church. Dr. Whitecar was such an eloquent preacher, that in his palmy days he could draw a large congregation anywhere. Consequently there could have been no one more eminently fitted for holding together the congregation under such trying circumstances than he. He was the right man in the right place. And to this very day there are many who testify to his persuasive eloquence during both of his pastorates. It was very proper, therefore, that the minister who led the host in the building of Third Street Methodist Episcopal Church and then after a few years was again appointed pastor of the same charge, should have his funeral service conducted in the church wherein God had made him a great blessing to the people. On the day of that solemn occasion Third Street Church was thronged with people. Though he had been seven years a supernumerary, nevertheless, he was not forgotten.



REV. CHAS. H. WHITECAR, D. D

REV. JACOB B. GRAW, D. D.

The fearless, invicible Rev. Jacob B. Graw, D. D., like Dr. Whitecar, had two pastorates in this church. He was the man who, like John Knox, "never feared the face of clay." He set his face as flint against wrong, and like his Lord and Saviour, denounced the wrong-doer in scathing terms. His preaching was with such marked ability that even his opposers were constrained to hear his messages. Hence the Mother Church had large congregations during his pastorates.

Too much praise cannot be given him for the successful negotiation with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for the Third Street property at the price of $65,000. His great part in connection with the committee in selecting this present site whereon now stands our splendid church, evinces rare judgment and wisdom. Surely his services to this church were of invaluable importance. Therefore, while it is true that he now "rests from his labors," nevertheless in our midst, "his works do follow him."

During the century, this Mother Church has had sixty-five different pastors and sixty-eight pastorates, Revs. Joseph Ashbrook, Charles H. Whitecar and Jacob B. Graw each having had two appointments to this charge.

A great deal could be said about every one of these men of God but space will not permit it. Rev. Henry Boehm lived to be more than 100 years old and on his centennial anniversary preached a sermon. Rev. John L. Lenhart, went into the navy as a Chaplain and during the early days of the great civil war went down with the ill-fated Cumberland. Rev. Samuel Y. Monroe met his death by falling from a train.

The following is a list of the pastors who have served this church, in the order as they served:

Richard Sneath, Thomas Dunn, Charles Reed, Peter Vannest, Joseph Osborn, Thomas Davis, John Woolston, George Wooley, John Price, Joseph VanSchaick, Joseph Rusling, James Moore, Joseph Lybrant, John Fox, Solomon Sharp, David Best, John Walker, James Long, John Potts, Benjamin Collins, Sylvester G. Hill, Walters Burroughs, Joseph Carey, Robert Lutton, David Dailey, Jacob Gruber, Wesley Wallace, Robert Gerry, Thomas Sovereign, Henry Boehm, William W. Foulks, Levi M. Prettyman, Samuel Throckmorton, Joseph Ashbrook, John Walker, Jefferson Lewis, Edward Page, William Granville, Thomas Neal, James Dandy, Joseph Ashbrook, John K. Shaw, John L. Lenhart, Issac Winner, Abram K. Street, David W. Bartine, Charles H. Whitecar, Isaac N. Feleh, Richard W. Petherbridge, James O. Rogers, John McDougal, W. E. Perry, Elwood H. Stokes, Samuel Y. Monroe, Joseph B. Dobbins, Samuel Vansant, Charles H. Whitecar, John S. Heisler, Charles E. Hill, Charles R. Hartranft, Jacob B. Graw, William W. Moffett, George B. Wight, John R. Westwood, Jacob B. Graw, John Handley, Wesley A. Hunsberger and Holmes F. Gravatt.

Of these sixty-five pastors, there are only five who survive, namely: Revs. W. W. Moffett, G. B. Wight, John Handley, W. A. Hunsberger, and the present incumbent, Holmes F. Gravatt. The others have passed from labor to reward and of them this mother church declares:

Servants of God, well done!
Your glorious warfare's past;
The battle's fought, the race is run,
And you are crowned at last."

REV. HOLMES F. GRAVATT.

The great success of this church is due to the faithfulness of her laity. Surely no church ever had a nobler band of "laborers together with God" than have always been found here. While it is impossible to mention them all in this history, nevertheless, it is highly appropriate to name those who represented the entire laity during the erection of the different church edifices.

When the first church was built in 1810, James Duer, John Petherbridge, Henry Sawn, and William Price supervised the work. It is true, however, that John Petherbridge was their agent for the transaction of the entire business. Nevertheless, these men represented the whole church.

When the second structure was erected, in 1834, the following men were trustees and had the oversight of the building: John R. Cowperthwaite, Edward Daugherty, Isaac McDowell, Andrew Jenkins, Andrew Sweeten, Isaiah Toy and John Duer. Before the church was completed, Sweeten, Jenkins and Duer resigned. Edward Kaighn, Riley Barrett and William Balser succeeded them.

During the construction of the third house of worship the Building Committee was composed of men whose devotion to duty lingers with us yet. They were: S. S. E Cowperthwaite, James M. Cassady, T. B. Atkinson, Morton Mills and E. S. Johnson.

Ten were on the Building Committee during the time the present temple was built, and while only a few years since they attended so faithfully to the duties that were theirs, relative to supervision, yet out of these ten, there

are only three on this side—seven having passed over to be forever with their Lord. Their names speak for themselves—their lives were and are their own best eulogies. The committee was composed as follows: D. H. Erdman, chairman; S. S. E. Cowperthwaite, Dr. M. F. Middleton, Frank S. Wells, Jonathan Duffield, Dr. Wm. Shafer, secretary; Dr. W. A. Davis, Samuel Robbins, William C Kean, Rev. J. B. Graw, D.D.

When there was a determined effort to wipe out our entire indebtedness before our Centennial, God very graciously gave us two men, who in this respect were indeed masters in the church. Dr. Wm. Shafer and Bro. W. A. Colescott planned and prayed for this great achievement. But very suddenly one morning, Dr. Shafer "was not for God had took him." This for a time being put somewhat of discouragement in our way. But God certainly laid his hand on Bro. Colescott and he was obedient to the divine touch and by prayer, plan and ceaseless endeavor, in twenty-nine months this man led in a financial campaign whereby the entire balance of the debt, $25,000, and the interest during that time, of $2,400, and the snug sum of over $1,200 for improvements, were raised. That was nearly an average of $1,000 per month for twenty-nine months, besides paying every item of current expense. The enthusiasm of this layman, with the energetic shout of the people: "We must hold up Bro. Colescott's hands," did the work.

Music has always had a large place in Methodism. On the wings of song many souls, through the agency of Methodism, have mounted up to the very presence of God. First Church has never lacked in this respect. She has had the best organs and the best choirs. Then she

DANIEL H. ERDMAN.

has been enabled, through the generosity of a friend, to have chimes in her steeple that has pealed forth her music to the multitudes that walk the streets. Every Sabbath and every national holiday these bells chime forth their music. Here is an illustration of the great good accomplished through these chimes: One Sunday evening a husband and wife sat in their home playing cards. The bells chimed out:

"Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to thee!"

Immediately the wife arose and said: "I'll play no more cards." They then agreed to go to church. Revival services were in progress at Broadway. They went to that church, yielding to the entreaties of the Holy Spirit. They were converted and lived a consistent life by faith in the Son of God. Not long since the husband went home to heaven and his wife, now surviving, declares that hymn chimed out that Sunday night led them at the feet of Jesus. Hence First Church and in fact the entire Methodism of Camden expresses unbounded gratitude to Mr. George Holl for this magnificent gift, in honor of his mother and to the cause of the Lord.

The Sunday School has been the recruiting station for this church, as it is for all churches. Hence on the roll of honor are emblazoned the names of all our Sunday School workers. Among them special mention must be made of the Superintendents. The following is the list:—

Edward L. Daugherty, Reiley Barrett, Benjamin A. Hammell, Hampton Williams, Charles Cox, Clayton Truax, Joseph De La Cour, David W. Bartine, Joshua Peacock, Morton Mills, Oliver M. Smith, James M. Cassady, Samuel Russell, James M. Peacock, Harry

LaDow, Dr. Wm. Shafer Charles Meves, A. K. Roberts, W. F. Kilgore, Wm. C. Lore, Dr. Wm. Shafer, Charles E. Graham, Robert T. Lee and C. Harold Lowden.

The work of the Sunday School in this church can never be properly written without mention of the invaluable service of Jennie T. King. For 37 years she was Superintendent of the Primary Department. Her devotion to her duty and her zeal to this cause made for her a large place in the hearts of both the children and parents. She had the privilege of having under her care children who passed out of her department through the other departments of the Sunday School, married and sent their children back to the same Primary Department through which these parents passed. Her long service gave her a grip on so many homes in the community that her name was like precious ointment poured forth in those families. And now while she rests from her labors, her works do certainly follow her. And though translated to the Glory Land, yet she continually speaks in her blessed influence, which will continue here to the end of time, and still live throughout the timeless state of eternity.

It is appropriate also to know the officiary of this church upon whom devolve very grave responsibilities. They are men who doubtless have the interest of our Zion at heart. Their names speak for themselves:

Official Board and Members of the Quarterly Conference of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, meets first Monday evening of each month.

District Superintendent, Rev. S. M. Nichols, Ph. D., Camden, N. J.

J. Howard Kirkbride. Wm. B. Castor. G. Frank Davis. James L. Crawford. Lewis Z Noble
Chas. K. Morris. John L. Bray. Albert B. Davis.

OFFICIAL BOARD OF FIRST M. E. CHURCH, 1909

Dr. Cromwell Ironsides. Leon A. Goff. Josiah Garrison Raymond Lowden. H. C Archer. John D Collins.
John Hollopeter. C. Harold Lowden. F. H. Powell. Joseph H. Murray. Chas. S. Lewis. E. S. Mosley
F. William Shafer. Henry Reeves Robert W. Meves.
Joseph Driver. Frank Ellis. Daniel S. Steelman. W. A Colescott. Frank H Rice. Elias E. Truax.
A. Lincoln Severns. Frank S. Wells. Mrs. Frank S. Wells. Mrs. Frank Powell. Robert A Batchelor.
Mrs. B. A. Bailie. Charles E. Graham. Robert L. Lee.
J. Morgan Read M. F. Ivins. Dr. W. A. Davis. Rev. H. F. Gravatt. Samuel Robbins. Powell G. Fithian. Charles Meves.

OFFICIAL BOARD OF FIRST M. E. CHURCH. 1909

Pastor, Rev. H. F. Gravatt, 309 South Sixth Street.

Rev. W. A. Hunsberger. D. D., Instructor, Dickinson College.

Local Deacon, Rev. C. T. Fisler, 585 Mickle street.

Local Elder, Rev. James B. Nixon, Collingswood, N. J.

Financial Secretary, C. K. Morris, 428 Broadway.

Treasurer, Harry C. Archer, 219 South Sixth Street.

Recording Steward, Robert T. Lee, Ninth and Penn Sts.

Secretary of Official Board, A. Lincoln Severns, 329 Washington Street.

Local Preachers—J. Howard Kirkbride, James L. Crawford.

Exhorters—Charles Meves, John L. Bray, Isaac S. Walton.

Trustees—W. A. Colescott, President; G. Frank Davis, Dr. W. A. Davis, M. F. Ivins, H. C. Archer, Secretary and Treasurer; F. H. Powell, Samuel Robbins, Capt. L. B. Shaw, Wm. B. Castor.

Class Leaders—John L. Bray, Isaac S. Walton, Mrs Frank H. Powell, Frank H. Rice.

Sunday School Superintendent, C. Harold Lowden.

President of Epworth League, Dr. Stanley Ironsides.

Superintendent of Junior League, Mrs. Leon A. Goff.

President of Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Frank S. Wells

Stewards—Robert T. Lee, Recording steward; Robert W. Meves, District steward; Henry Reeves, Alternate; Dr. F. Wm. Shafer, Dr. Cromwell Ironsides, Powell G. Fithian, Charles S. Lewis, Leon A. Goff, Charles K. Morris, Joseph Driver, Joseph H. Murray, Robert A. Batchelor, Dr. Albert B. Davis, Charles E. Graham, John Hollopeter, A. L. Severns, Frank Ellis, Elias E. Truax, Frank H. Rice, John D. Collins, E. S. Mosley.

Finance Committee—Robert T. Lee, President; C. K.

Morris, Secretary; H. C. Archer, Treasurer; P. G. Fithian, A. L. Severns, Frank H. Rice.

Then also this Mother Church is not forgetful of those who were members of her flock, but now are ministers of the Gospel of the Son of God. Two veterans of the cross, members of the New Jersey Conference must be especially mentioned: Rev. Thos. S. Wilson and Rev. Edwin Waters. This Mother, on her Centennial Anniversary offers to these faithful and noble sons her most hearty congratulations. And now while—because of years—these sons have been compelled to lay aside the activities of the ministry, yet it is a pleasure to know that their lives are benedictions to those with whom they come in contact.

Among those who bowed at her altar and found Jesus Christ, their Lord and Saviour, and are now engaged in the active work of the ministry are Revs. Charles H. Elder, Edward Mount, Isaac Woodward, Orville S. Duffield and Samuel B. Goff, Jr.

The Choir of the Mother Church should have more than a passing mention. Among the most proficient leaders in the musical world have been her choristers. While every one of them have been men of marked ability and of great service to the church, yet, without uttering a word that may seem in the least invidious to any, it can be truthfully said, for efficiency in service and devotion to duty, the present organist and chorister, Prof. Powell G. Fithian, has not been excelled. By his suggestion and under his direction a vested choir made its appearance in this church. At first this innovation met with somewhat of objection. But its utility and common sense so commends itself to the public that now it would be a very difficult matter to have the "vested choir" removed. There are some things so commendatory in this, that they

should not be overlooked. There is a uniformity of dress and no hats worn by the ladies. Hence the poorest of the poor, if there be a voice to sing, can enter this choir without any thought of distinction in dress. And those who hitherto have been kept out of this musical circle simply because they could not afford to buy fine clothes, now can sing for their Lord without any thought of embarrassment. This choir consists of about 80 voices, and their part in the worship of the Lord is indeed a very important one. In the regular service and in special revival efforts, they lead souls, on the wings of song, to the very presence of the Most High. Their religious service of song one night, during the Centennial Jubilee can never be forgotten. Their faithfulness to duty has the gratitude of the entire church and a number of times the Official Board has given testimonials to the choir, showing their great appreciation of this invaluable organization.

Then also the young men of the Mother Church have been and are still abundant in labors for God. For a long while Bro. Frank S. Wells had charge of the ushering. Under his direction the young men were chosen as ushers. And with his careful eye everything went harmoniously. His selcetion of ushers were wise and his devotion to duty was without alloy. The Official Board felt that everything was perfectly safe entrusted to the care of this servant of God. But by the suggestion of Bro. Wells, himself, authorized by the Official Board, an Ushers' Union was organized. No one was more interested in this organization than the man who for a long while had had sole charge of directing the ushers. He was so anxious to have the organization perfected. Hence the night before he was translated, February 17, 1908, the organization was completed. He was present and seemed in perfect health. The young men would listen to no name for President but

Frank S. Wells. He left the church about 10 o'clock, went to his home, attended to business the next day and seemed in perfect health and after reaching home from his place of business, delightfully happy, in an instant, at about 4 o'clock, God said: "Frank S. Wells, you have finished the work I gave you to do," and immediately he stepped in the eternal presence of God. But his spirit still lingers with the young men and his example is imitated by them. C. Harry Archer was chosen to succeed Bro. Wells, and now this noble band of young men are doing great work for God and the church in devoted zeal and energy in this work.

Thus what a history is the history of this Mother Church. She began the century with a little band of seven. Now, including the communicants of her daughters and grand daughters there is a membership of 7,000 Methodists in Camden. Jesus spoke a parable of a sower who sowed seed upon good ground, "that brought forth some an hundred fold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold." But the greatest rate of increase as illustrated by this parable was the hundred fold or 10,000 per cent. increase. But the Methodism of Camden during a century has had a greater increase. A gain of 7,000 members means a 700,000 per cent. increase. Consequently the words of Jesus have been verified: "The works that I do shall ye do also and greater works than these shall ye do; because I go to the Father."

When that little coterie of seven people organized their class in April, 1809, then Camden had no Methodist church. In fact, Camden had no church building—save the Friends' Meeting House. But now the Methodism of this city has $550,000 of equity in church property. This

Mother Church, with her daughter, Broadway, only four squares apart, have properties whose combined value is at least $300,000. Upon these properties there is no debt.

Out of the home of First Church have gone loyal children to set up church homes for themselves. And by their spiritual devotion and consecrated earnestness in the Kingdom of our Lord, they rise up and call their Mother blessed.

The first child of this Mother is her daughter, "Union," located at Mount Vernon and Fifth streets. Her more than seventy-five years of Christian service speaks eloquently for her. Beside this she has sent her daughters, Trinity, Kaighn Avenue, and Asbury out into the service of the Lord.

Broadway is the second daughter and after a life of more than fifty-five years she's the strongest church numerically in the State. Wiley and Eighth Street are the children of Broadway and are favorably located for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

Tabernacle is the third daughter and the fourth church building erected in Camden. She has done valiant service for God and has sent a strong, vigorous daughter into the field known as State Street Church.

The Centennial of American Methodism was properly celebrated in Camden when the Mother Church put her blessing upon some of her children and they set up a church on Fifth and Cooper streets, and named this daughter Centenary.

Bethany also belongs to the immediate family of the Mother Church, having begun her separate work more than a score of years ago at Tenth and Cooper streets.

Fairview is a child of Asbury and has a strategic situation at Twenty-third and River avenue.

St. George's was organized under the leadership of J H. Kirkbride, in 1894, and now is a commanding influence on the East Side.

Wesley is an adopted child from the Methodist Protestant Church, and now has a promising field of labor.

Bethel belonged orignally to the Haddonfield Circuit, but was organized into a society known as the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church, February 11, 1843. In 1893, having moved within the city limits, she became an adopted daughter of Camden Methodism.

These churches will have their individual histories chronicled in this book. But the history of the First Church would be incomplete without mentioning her children and grand children of whom she is justly proud.

The membership of the Mother Church is about 1,000 The membership of the sixteen Methodist Episcopal churches is about 7,000. It is safe to multiply the membership of any church by three and thereby discover its constituency. The population of Camden is about 92,000 If the constituency of Methodism is 21,000, then Methodism sways nearly one-fourth of the moral and spiritual influence of the entire city. How glorious are our privileges and yet how solemn are our responsibilities!

Surely then the Mother Church has fought and is fighting the good fight and under her influence the Methodism of Camden enters the new century in experience clear os the sun; in reputation fair as the moon; in opposition to wrong as terrible as an army with banners.

FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1909

HISTORY OF THE

Union Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

The Union Church Society dates back to 1883, when Rev. J. Ashbrook, pastor of the Third Street Church, formed the first Class in South Camden, composed of twenty-three members, with Charles Hugg as leader. The Class met in a school house on Kaighn avenue and has been continued until the present time. Levi B. Newton was leader for many years and at his death was succeeded by George Dannenhower.

Before Pastor Ashbrook was called from Third Street Church he established Sunday afternoon preaching and secured the site of the present church, Fifth street, Mount Vernon street and Newton avenue.

Rev. J. K. Shaw succeeded Rev. Mr. Ashbrook and built a little frame chapel which served the double purpose of church and school house until 1848.

In the spring of the year, Rev. D. W. Bartine was appointed to Third Street Church, with Rev. Israel Corbett as assistant, and between the two preachers the Church grew rapidly, and it was found necessary to erect a new

structure. The new church was fifty-six by forty feet, and was dedicated on Christmas day, 1848.

The Society continued under the fostering care of Third Street Church until 1850, when a separate organization was effected, and the Rev. David Duffel was the first regular pastor. The first board of Trustees was composed as follows: Enoch Shinn, Joseph Sharp, John S Bundick, Thomas McDowell, Samuel Scull, Levi B. Newton, and Joseph Evans. Thomas McDowell being the only one alive at the present time.

Rev. Mr. Duffel continued in the pastorate two years and was succeeded by the Rev. George Hitchens, who also continued two years.

Rev. Philip Cline and Rev. J. W. Hickman followed in succession.

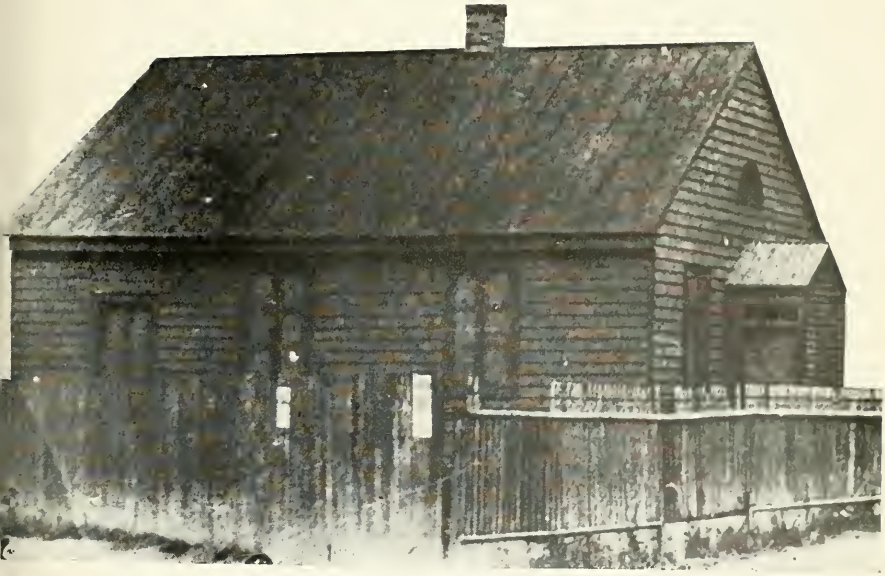
In 1858 and 1859 Rev. Henry M. Brown was pastor.

1860 and '61, Rev. H. B. Beegle was pastor.

1862, Rev. Charles E. Hill was appointed pastor but left his charge to serve his country as chaplain in the army.

1863, Rev. A. E. Ballard; 1864, and '65, Rev. Samuel Parker; 1866 and '67, Rev. W. W. Christine; 1868, '69 and '70, Rev. G. R. Snyder; 1871, '72 and '73, Rev. George C. Maddock; 1874, '75 and '76, Rev. A. K. Street; 1877, '78 and '79, Rev. James Moore.

In 1880 Rev. John S. Gaskill became pastor and



UNION M. E. CHURCH—1847.

UNION M. E. CHURCH—1850

REV. HENRY J. ZELLEY

REV. JOHN S. GASKILL

through his untiring efforts and Christian zeal the church was rebuilt and enlarged, and was dedicated in August, 1881. Rev. George L. Dobbins took charge in 1883, and remained pastor until 1886. In that year Rev. Ananias Lawrence was called and continued until 1890, when Rev. George C. Stanger was called, being succeded by Rev. John S. Heisler.

A noteworthy event of his pastorate was a morning preaching service when an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, such as we had never seen, resulted in the conversion of over one hundred souls on that day.

Rev. Dr. Heisler was succeeded by Rev. J. Morgan Reed, under whose ministrations the church greatly prospered.

Bro. Read was succeeded by Rev. Eli Gifford and through his efforts the church was again enlarged and a pipe organ installed—the improvements amounting to fourteen thousand dollars.

Bro. Gifford was succeeded by Rev. Geo. B. Wight, and during his pastorate and by his planning the balance of the debt for the improvement was paid.

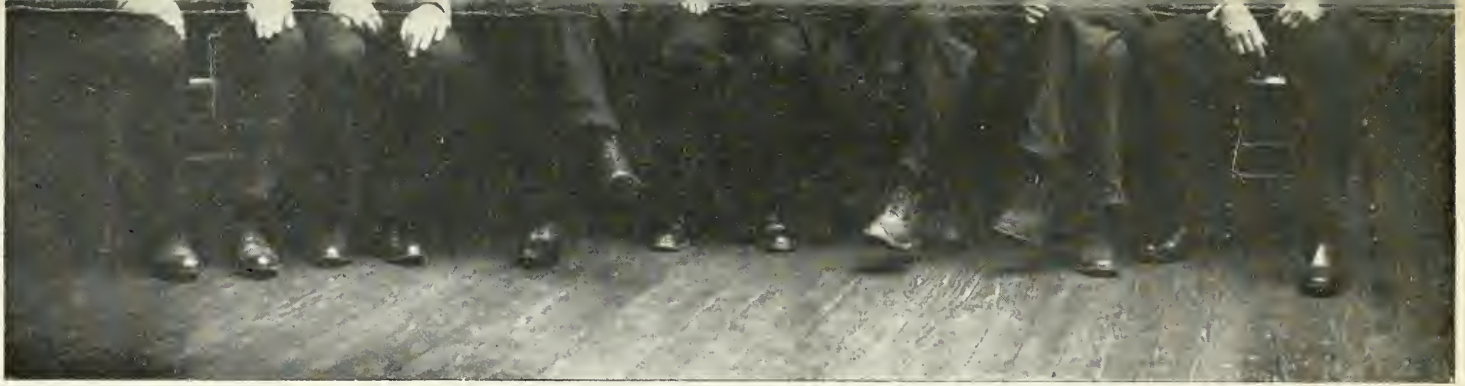
Dr. Wight was succeeded by Rev. Henry J. Zelley, who served four years. During his time efforts were made to cancel the mortgage which had stood for twenty-five years and plans were formed and an effort made which resulted in twenty-five hundred dollars being paid before our present pastor, Rev. U. G. Hagaman came. He has now taken up the work and expects, by the blessing of our Heavenly Father, to make this one of the best years old Union has ever experienced.

The present Official Board is composed as follows:

Rev. U. G. Hagaman, Pastor; Bros. Levi Van Hart, John Kaighn, Walter E. Garwood, James E. Hewitt, Harry L. Swyler, John Steelman, Walter F. Wolfkiel, John W. Redding, Ira I. Shute, George W. Shimp, Stewart Miller, Clarence Harden, Martin Buck, William Heritage, William Lockerman, William Godfrey, George Armstrong, Levin Mitchell, Harry Robinson, John Simpson, Frank C. Dall, Lorenza Shrieves, William E. Townsend, Albert Kretchmer, Levi Pimm, Jennie L. Swyler, Eva Cox, Ida Kretchmer.

After having printed page 31 we noticed that there was an error in the year mentioned in the first line—1883. It should read 1838. And we have also been furnished with the additional data concerning the origin of the church as follows:

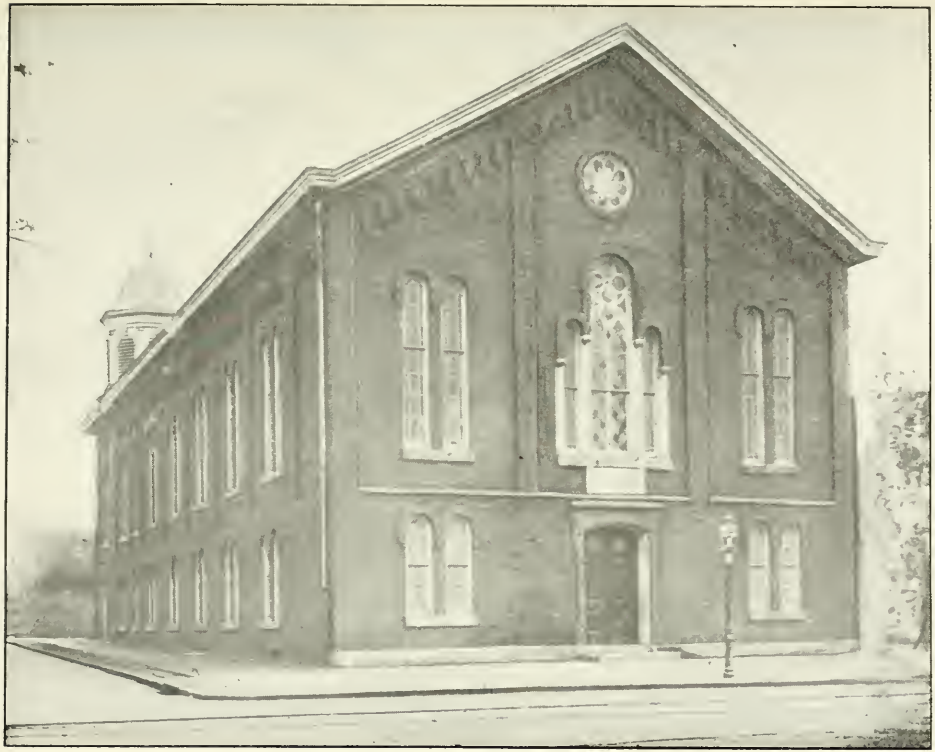
Mrs. Mary Hammell, whose maiden name was Mary Tucker, says that when she was a child about twelve or thirteen years old, she was a Sabbath school scholar in the only Methodist Episcopal Sabbath school in Camden at that time located on the west side of Third street a little below Taylor avenue, and some of the members of the church and Sabbath school took it into their heads and hearts to start a mission Sabbath school at Fettersville, South Camden. The young women who were active in this new enterprise were: Betsy Middleton, Susan Scott (who married William Jefferies, who became the first preacher of what is now the Union M. E. Church), Rebecca Duer, Ellen Witham and Margaret Weldon. These women formed a Dorcas Society, and then made a canvass of the place and called from door to door in search of children to start a new Sabbath school. They found the children, but the parents said they would like their children to go to the Sabbath school but they had no suitable clothes to wear.



Wm. E. Townsend. Lorenzo Shreeves. Eva Cox. Mrs. H. L. Swyler. Mrs. A. Kretzmer. Albert Chew. Rev. J. Morgan Read.
Wm. Heritage. F. C. Dall. J. Simpson. Martin Buck. H. L. Swyler. Levin Mitchell.
J. K. Steelman. W. E. Garwood. Wm. Lockerman.
Clarence Harden. Ira I. Shute. G. W. Shemp.
Harry Robinson. Levi Pimm. Geo. Armstrong William Godfrey.
Jas. E. Hewitt. Stewart Miller. John Kaighn. Rev. H. J. Zelley. W. F. Wolfkiel. Levi C. Van Hart. Joseph W. Redding

UNION OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

REV. U. G. HAGAMAN



UNION M. E. CHURCH, 1909

The good women then went in search of donations of clothing and they were successful in obtaining sufficient, such as it was, which needed a good deal of altering. The Dorcas Society met in the homes of its members and cheerfully labored in making the clothes over for the children and prospered in their work of love for the Master's cause. Well they soon had the children fitted up so they made a respectable appearance. The Sabbath school met in a one-story frame building, where Union Church now stands. It was not long before the school outgrew the capacity of the building.

It was then decided that they must have more room, as the teachers were compelled to stand when teaching their scholars. Betsey Middleton was Superintendent.

The Sabbath school then decided to build a church.

The men who financed the erection of the new edifice were: Charles Sloan, Philander C. Brink, Joseph C. De La Cour, Joseph Sharp, William Sharp, John S. Bundick, Charles Cox, Elias Kaighn, Samuel Scull and others whose names cannot be recalled at this time.

When the new church edifice was nearly completed a discussion arose as to whether the Sabbath school should move into the new building, and there was considerable opposition to this proposition by some of the officials because, as they stated, that the boys would come in the church with their "dirty boots" and thus make the floor unfit for their wives to kneel on in their silk dresses. It was put to a vote by the officials and decided that they should not go into the church, but remain in the old frame building.

Then the men from Third Street Church were dissatisfied with this proceeding and decided to start a new school. The first meeting for this purpose was held at the home of Charles Sloan, on the north-west corner of Berk-

ley and William streets. They purchased a lot on the south-west corner of Berkley and William streets, and erected a two-story frame building. The lower floor was used for a day school and the upper floor was used as a Sabbath school. Many of the scholars left the Fettersville school and joined the Cooper Hill school. Among those who came to Cooper Hill were: Betsey Middleton, Ellen Witham and Mary Tucker (now Mrs. Mary Hammell), who is still a member there (now Broadway M. E. Church).

HISTORY OF THE

Broadway Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

Broadway M. E. Church is the outgrowth of a Sunday School that was organized April 8, 1848, at a meeting held at the house of Charles Sloan, on Berkley street, when the following persons offered their services as teachers: Charles Sloan, David Duffield, Jr., Thos. L. Smith, Philander C. Brink, Benjamin A. Hammell, Levi Phifer, William Few, John Newton, Richard J. Sharp, J. B. Reed, John B. Thompson, Elizabeth Middleton, Susan M. Scott, Mary Adams, Harriet Davis, Mary Brooks, Mary Dunn and Sarah Cheseman. (There is retained a complete minute of every board meeting held from then to the present date.)

A short time afterward a lot of ground was purchased and a school house built and dedicated April 15, 1849, by Rev. D. W. Bartine. At this time the school numbered 12 teachers and 63 scholars.

In August, 1849, a request was made to Rev. Charles H. Whitacre, then pastor of the Third Street M. E. Church, to form a class on Cooper Hill. Isaac B. Reed was appointed leader, with the following list of members:

Hannah Chambers, Abigail Bishop, Mrs. Wood, Furman Sheldon and wife, Asa Sutton, Mary Sutton, Mary Brooks, Elizabeth Bender, Ruthanna Bender, Charlotte Wilkinson, William Patterson and wife, Rebecca Thompson, Elizabeth McIntyre Hannah R. Ried Daniel Stevenson and wife, Susan Thomas, Samuel Severns and wife, Mary E. Maguire and William Few. On March 10, 1854, a meeting was held to organize a new church, but the matter was deferred until after the annual conference, at the request of the Presiding Elder.

On May 9th a meeting was held for the purpose of organization, when forty certificates of membership from other charges were received. Added to those already named were: William Severns and wife, Jonathan Kirkbride and wife, Daniel Bishop, John Cheeseman and wife, John M. Paschall and wife, John C. Clopper and wife, John Lee, W. P. Price, Walter Rink and wife, Logan Alcott and wife, Samuel C. Cain and John Lee.

The Quarterly Conference was then organized: Rev. I. N. Felch, P. E.; Rev. R. S. Arndt, pastor; W. P. Price, exhorter; John Lee, J. B. Reed and Conklin Mayhew, leaders; John C. Clopper, Walter Rink, John M. Paschall and Logan Alcott, Stewards.

The first Board of Trustees were Daniel Bishop, Furman Sheldon, Logan Alcott, Thomas H. Stephens, William Severns, C. Mayhew and Samuel C. Cain. They were elected May 30, 1854, and before December of the same year they purchased the Cooper Hill property, corner of Broadway and Berkley street, and assumed an indebtedness of $2,400. In one year from the organization, (May, 1855, Pastor J. H. Knowles), we find the church so vigorous and aggressive that a Sun-

day school No. 2 was organized on Pine street, Superintendents, Bros. Cain and Paschall. In the meantime the foundations of the first building (Broadway and Berkley street) were laid and the Sunday school room dedicated December 25, 1855, by Bishop Scott. The church was completed and the main room dedicated two years later on January 29, 1857, by Bishop Janes, the total cost being $6,200. From 1855 to 1861 the pastors were: J. H. Knowles, J. J. Handley, C. K. Fleming, Charles W. Heisley and R. M. Stratton. The record shows a continous increase of membership during these years. At the quarterly conference December, 1861, the Sunday school reported 320 scholars and school No. 2 (which was afterward moved to Eighth and Walnut streets), numbered 60 scholars and 11 teachers. Out of this Sunday School No. 2 evolved the present Eighth Street M. E. Church. The debt on our own church at this date was the Cooper mortgage, $1,300; the Bishop mortgage, $3.400; the Alcott mortgage, $1,100, and floating debt, $269. Total $6,069.

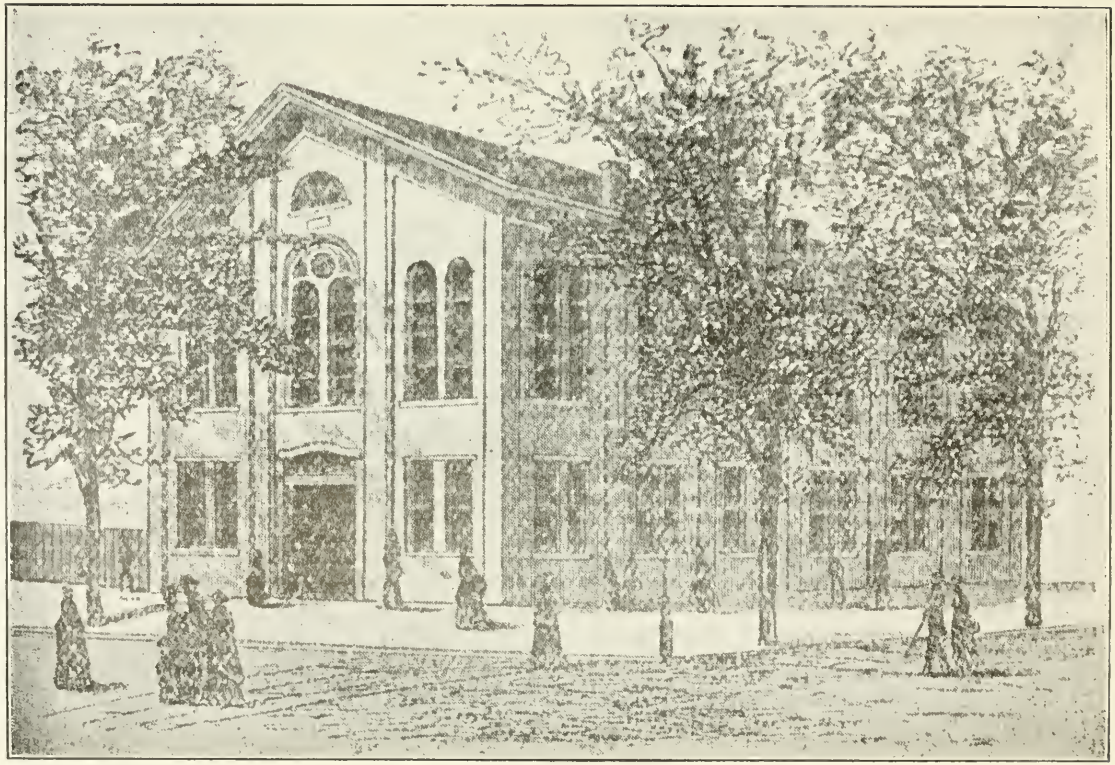
The conference years of 1862-3, under the pastorate of Rev. R. S. Harris, was in the dark days of the Civil War. During those years the Sabbath school was nearly depleted of its young men by the calls of war. At one time nearly a clean sweep was made of our male teachers, officers and librarians. Still the church kept nobly on and accomplished a grand work in the Master's cause. During the time of Bro. Harris, Broadway fought the battle of instrumental music for the Methodist churches of Camden and West and South Jersey. It was a hard battle. Some thirty or forty took their certificates because they could not worship in a church with a music box in the gallery.

From 1864 to 1873 the pastors were: George Hitchens,

William Walton, R. A. Chalker and George Hughes. In the year 1868, under the pastorate of Bro. Chalker the young people's meeting was organized, under the leadership of Dr. Rufus Reed, which has been continued to the present time, without intermission, but recently known under the name of Epworth League.

These meetings have been a source of very great interest and success and contributed very much to the progress of the church. During these years quite a number of young men were added to the church who have been prominent in its work ever since. The growth was so great as to make it necessary to enlarge the church to nearly double its then capacity. This was done under the pastorate of Bro. Phelps, in 1873, at a cost of $11,716.18. A parsonage, No. 512 Broadway, was also purchased at this time at a cost of $5,000. At this date the old debt, $6,069, had been cut down to $4,100, this added to the cost of addition making a total of $20,816.18. During the pastorate of Brothers Phelps, Brown and George Reed this debt was reduced to $9,000 on the church and $3,000 on the parsonage.

Brother George B. Wight was our next pastor, serving years 1878, 79, 80, under whose leadership a new financial plan was adopted, called the envelope plan, which proved to be a great success, and has since been adopted very largely throughout all Methodism. Pursuing this plan we proposed to pay off the balance of the church debt—$9,000, by raising $1,000 each year by weekly or monthly payments, which was begun in 1878, and the full amount was raised and the mortgage cancelled in April, 1888. Pursuing this plan we paid off the $3,000 mortgage on the parsonage in two years and cancelled that mortgage in 1890.



BROADWAY M. E. CHURCH, 1873.

In 1879 a new departure was inaugurated in the Sunday school work called the Broadway Sunday School Assembly, which grew out of a class of strangers under the leadership of Joseph E. Roberts as teacher. This grew in interest and numbers until they were compelled, for want of room, to go to the new main auditorium of the church, when it took the name of the Assembly, for adults, from the Sunday school and church in general with the motto, "The whole Sunday school in the church and the whole church in the Sunday school." This, too, became very popular and has since been adopted substantially by all the leading churches.

In 1879 a children's class was organized, under the leadership by Miss Carrie Gorman, now Mrs. Samuel H. Thompson. It has been of very great interest and benefit to the church in affording an opportunity for children of like age, thought and views to meet on common ground.

Rev. Milton Relyea was the pastor in 1881-2-3. During the last year, 1883, the increase of the church and Sunday school became so great that it was necessary to get, if possible, a little more room, so the old gallery was torn down, and a new one, going a little more than half way around the church, was built, and a new pipe organ put in at a total cost of $3,607.50.

Rev. William P. Davis, D. D., followed in 1884-5-6, with marked success. In his first year, 1884, another mission was started on Pine street below Third street, (formerly under the auspices of the Union M. E. Church, but at this time under the management of a few private individuals) and was assigned to our church. In 1885 we sold it for $600 and purchased a lot 90 feet by 150 feet at the corner of

Third and Beckett streets, and built the Wiley M. E. Church and dedicated it in October, 1885, at a cost of $5,191.27. We sustained the mission until it was able to sustain itself, and then conveyed it, in 1890, to its present organization, subject to a mortgage debt of $2,500, at five per cent., and we paid the interest on it until 1892, when the necessity for further help was no longer apparent.

The growth of Broadway especially in the following 12 years was remarkable and the need of still more room was beginning to be manifest, so much so that in March, 1887, the Quarterly Conference appointed a committee, consisting of Joseph E. Roberts, Dr. A. E. Street, Joseph Elverson, Dr. Rufus Reed, Thomas I. Gifford, William C. Keen and Wilbur F. Carhart to consider the advisability of building a larger church and to secure plans, specifications, estimates of cost, etc., for the same. The committee organized by electing Joseph E. Roberts, chairman; Wilbur F. Carhart, secretary, and Thomas I. Gifford, treasurer.

On May 15, 1889, under the pastorate of Brother Strickland, our chapter No. 1217, of the Epworth League, was organized by the election of the following officers: President, Harry S. Springer; First Vice-President, Harry L. Titus; Second Vice-President, Miss Frances Heishon; Third Vice President, Miss Nellie D. Roberts; Fourth Vice President, Miss Lizzie R. Street; Secretary, Samuel H. Thompson; Treasurer, Harry W. Middleton. This, too, has been and is still flourishing in the good cause.

On November 16, 1890, our Junior Epworth League was organized under the leadership of Samuel H. Thomp-

REV. E. HEWITT

son, and is still accomplishing a grand and good work for the young people.

In 1891 the church parsonage, at 512 Broadway, was sold, and the property at 507 Broadway, adjoining the church, was purchased for $5,300, including repairs, renovation and alterations.

On February 20, 1890, Brothers William C. Riggs, Albert L. Mulford, Harry L. Titus and Harry S. Springer were added to the committee. Continuing through the pastorate of Rev. W. P. C. Strickland the necessity for a new church continued to grow until the second year of Bro. Hewitt's administration.

On May 8, 1891, the committee secured the lots in the rear of the church, 80 feet on Berkley street to William street, by 56 feet deep, at a cost of $7,900.

On the third Sunday in May, the 17th, 1891, we took a subscription in the church for $10,000, under our envelope plan, aggregating the sum of $10,214.60. On November 5, 1891, the committee was authorized by the Quarterly Conference to secure plans and specifications for the new Temple. On November 21, 1891, the committee invited nine architects to give plans for the same, without compensation only to the successful one. On April 4, 1892, Messrs. Moses & King's plans were accepted and nine contractors were invited to bid on the plans and specifications for the new Temple. May 17, 1892, the bid of our Brother William Severns being the lowest, was accepted—his bid for the building being $23,578.00. Estimate for additional cost, furniture, heating, gas and electric appliances and everything complete, $9,000; add cost

of land, $7,900, aggregating $40,478, the estimated total cost of the Temple.

On June 3, 1892, the committee reported to the Quarterly Conference of having secured in cash from subscriptions taken on May 17, 1891, as above $9,190.15 and approved unpaid subscription of $1,500, making a total of $10,690 (the difference being accounted for by other subscriptions being received since the subscription was taken) and at this meeting the committee recommended that another subscription of $10,000 be taken on the following Sunday, and, if secured, a contract be entered into with Brother Severns, the contractor, which was concurred in, and the Trustees were given authority by the Quarterly Conference to do all necessary legal acts in carrying out the same. At this time Bro. Charles S. Ackley was added to the committee. July 28, 1892, the corner stone of the Temple was laid. On Sunday, April 23, 1893, the Temple was dedicated at a total cost of, including the land, extras, insurance, furniture, heating, new carpets in the old church, etc., $44,958.51; interest paid on the same, $4,028.78; total, $48,987.29.

On April 21, 1893, the building committee decided to renew the subscription to the building fund for the year beginning June 1, 1893, to be taken on dedication Sunday, April 23, 1893, for $10,000 and interest on the indebtedness.

On June 17, 1894, a weekly newspaper was started under the management of Dr. A. E. Street, known as the Broadway Record. This was a source of much interest, information and pleasure, but owing to the onerous duties connected with running it, after a season it was discontinued.

On May 11, 1894, under the pastorate of Brother Hancock, the building committee agreed that the subscription to the building fund for the next year should be taken the following Sunday in the same manner as of former years. The subscription was taken the third Sunday in May, 1895, for $7,000, the full amount having been raised.

At a meeting of the Quarterly Conference held February 21, 1896, the building committee reported the present debt on the Sunday School Temple, after deducting what they considered good of the unpaid subscription, was about $7,000, and recommended that they make an effort to raise this amount by subscription (payable in monthly installments during the year) on our next building fund day, and that we proceed at once to arrange for building our new church during 1897. On May 31, 1896, under the pastorate of Dr. Mace, the subscription to the building fund was taken for $7,000, as named above and fully secured. At this time the Woman's Thousand Dollar Club was organized for the purpose of raising a thousand dollars in aid of the building fund. After having accomplished the same, on February 22, 1898, they agreed to raise a thousand dollars for the Mace memorial window, which they did. After raising the same they agreed to buy the new church organ at a cost of $5,000, (less $500 received from the sale of the old organ) on annual subscriptions of $1,000, which they have fully accomplished.

The funeral of the Rev. Dr. James R. Mace, the beloved pastor of the Broadway Methodist Episcopal Church, of Camden, whose death occurred on Saturday morning, January 16th, 1897, took place on Wednesdsay afternoon, January 20th, from the church of which he was pastor,

and was one of the largest attended funerals that has been witnessed in Camden for many years.

The ministers of the New Jersey Conference and the representatives of the Philadelphia Conference, and the Evangelical Alliance, had seats reserved in the old church and on the platform of the Sunday School temple, which they occupied, together with the Official Board of the church. Shortly before 1 o'clock the clergy formed in line in open order on the pavement, between the parsonage and the church, and the remains of the dead divine, in a handsome blackcloth covered casket, were carried into the church and placed in front of the altar, just below the speaker's platform.

The services, which were of a most impressive character, were in charge of Rev. D. B. Harris, the presiding elder of the Camden district, who announced the first hymn, after which Rev. George B. Wight, presiding elder of the Bridgeton district, offered prayer. The Scripture lessons were read by Rev. George Reed, presiding elder of the Trenton district, and Rev. W. P. C. Strickland, presiding elder of the New Brunswick district.

Rev. Edmund Hewitt, D. D., of the Tabernacle Church, next made a brief address, and presented the resolutions offered by the Methodist Preachers' Association. These resolutions, framed by Rev. Dr. Handley, Rev. Dr. Marshall and Rev. Dr. Hewitt, included a brief sketch of Dr. Mace, and paid a glowing tribute to the life and labors of their deceased colleague.

J. Clarence Collins followed with the reading of the resolutions adopted by the Official Board of the church,

which were eulogistic of the ministerial labors of Dr. Mace as pastor of Broadway Church, as an earnest Christian and a devoted servant of God, and expressing sympathy for the widow and children of the dead pastor.

Rev. J. C. Russell next followed by reading the resolutions of the Evangelical Alliance framed by Revs. M. M. Finch, J. C. Russell and J. W. Lyell, a synopsis of which is here given:

"We part with our brother in tender grief and with sense of loss that he should be called away in the early prime and promise of a consecrated and most efficient ministry, but we bow in trustful submission to the will of Him who in infinite wisdom, goodness and power, 'doeth all things well.'

"We extend sympathy inexpressible to the sorely afflicted church, to all kindred and friends bereaved, but most specially and tenderly do we commend in our prayers his dear family, to 'the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.' We pray they may realize the comfort of His exceeding great and precious promises,' and that this affliction may work out for us all 'a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.'

"As a devout, sound, able and faithful minister of Christ's Gospel he will be held in everlasting remembrance. 'He being dead, yet speaketh.''

The committee of the Philadelphia Conference was represented by Rev. J. R. Westwood, who spoke feelingly of the departed minister, and, in conclusion, said: "Methodism loses a shining light in the death of Dr. Mace, a

man strong in character, and whose death is a loss to the Church which seems incomputable."

Rev. H. J. Zelley, who was a colleague of Dr. Mace in the Conference Class of '82, also made a touching address on his dead classmate, concluding with reading the following original and tender poem:

With breaking hearts and weeping eyes
We gather in this holy place
To gaze upon the silent face
Of one translated to the skies.

A man of strong and cultured mind,
Who consecrated all to God,
And in his footsteps boldly trod;
A nobler spirit none can find.

His kindly eye would look around
To find the troubled and distressed,
He'd point them to the Saviour's breast,
Where help and comfort could be found.

His hand was strong to serve his King,
'Twas strong to grasp the Spirit's sword.
'Twas strong to battle for the Lord,
'Twas sure the victory to bring.

His feet were swift in duty's way;
He loved his sinful elbow-man,
And to uplift him, quickly ran
And sought with zeal the souls astray.

His heart was kindled from above;
He knew the blessed Christ so well
That he to others e'er must tell
The story of the Saviour's love.

His lips were touched with holy fire;
With burning words and kindling eye
He held the cross of Christ on high,
Till hearts were moved with strong desire.

That flashing eye is closed to-day,
The hands are still, the feet at rest;
The heart throbs not within the breast,
The lips no longer throngs can sway.

We're passing through the waters deep,
Our grief, so mighty now appears;
We vainly seek relief in tears
As Christ beside his friend did weep.

But God speaks out in accents clear,
"When I upon the earth shall bring
A cloud, that dark its shadows fling,
My bow of promise shall appear."

And so we look with tearful eye
And pierce the clouds that lie between,
Till by our faith, is clearly seen
Our friend, triumphant in the skies.

With blood-washed robes, our loved, our own,
Has safely crossed the river wide,
Is sitting now at Jesus' side,
Upon the Saviour's glorious throne.

Amid the splendor of that home
He waits the wife and children, too,
His classmates and his brethren true,
When they in turn shall safely come.

Farewell, our comrade, brother, friend,
Thy race is won, thy conflict's o'er;
Thou'st safely reached yon heavenly shore,
And bliss is thine that ne'er shall end.

The loss is ours, the gain is thine,
And while we sit in grief untold,
Thy feet are walking streets of gold,
And thou art sharing joys divine.

And now a moment we would pause
And here, beside thy silent clay
We promise God from this sad day,
To be more faithful to his cause.

Till life shall end and we shall rise
Above the clouds of sorrow's night,
To regions of eternal light,
And greet thee gladly in the skies.

The concluding address, which was one of the most affecting delivered, was made by Presiding Elder D. B. Harris, after which the sorowing audience took final leave of the remains.

The pall-bearers were Revs. G. S. Meseroll, W. A. Massy, John H. Boswell, C. Rollin Smith, W. S. Meley, W. F. Carhart, Smith Fogg and William Johnson.

The floral designs which were numerous and handsome, included the following: Epworth League emblem, from Chapter 1217; "The Bible," from the Sunday School; a harp from the choir; a broken column, from the Central Church, Bridgeton; a pillow of white roses, from the Junior Epworth League; anchor and star, surmounted by two doves, from the Topicus Club, and designs from the Minerva Literary Society and the Ladies' Mite Society.

The interment, which was private, was in Harleigh Cemetery.

Perhaps the most impressive feature of this solemn occasion, was as all the members of the Official Board stood in lines on either side of the casket, with bowed heads for some minutes, in which the vast auditorium joined in reverential silence.

January 2, 1897, plans for the new church were submitted to the Quarterly Conference by the building committee. January 14, 1897, seventeen contractors were invited to bid on the plans and specifications for the new church. March 8, 1897, the bids were opened, ranging from $80,269, the highest, to $49,483 the lowest bid. Average bid, $63,700. March 12, 1897, the building committee reported having secured a loan of $40,000 at six per cent. upon the church and parsonage property and had arranged for an individual loan of $15,000, and also recommended that a subscription of $10,000 be taken in the church and Sunday school on March 14, 1897, payable in weekly instalments, within one year from June 1, 1897, and if the $10,000 be secured, that we proceed at once to erect the new auditorium, or church building, as contemplated. The report was accepted by the Quarterly Con-

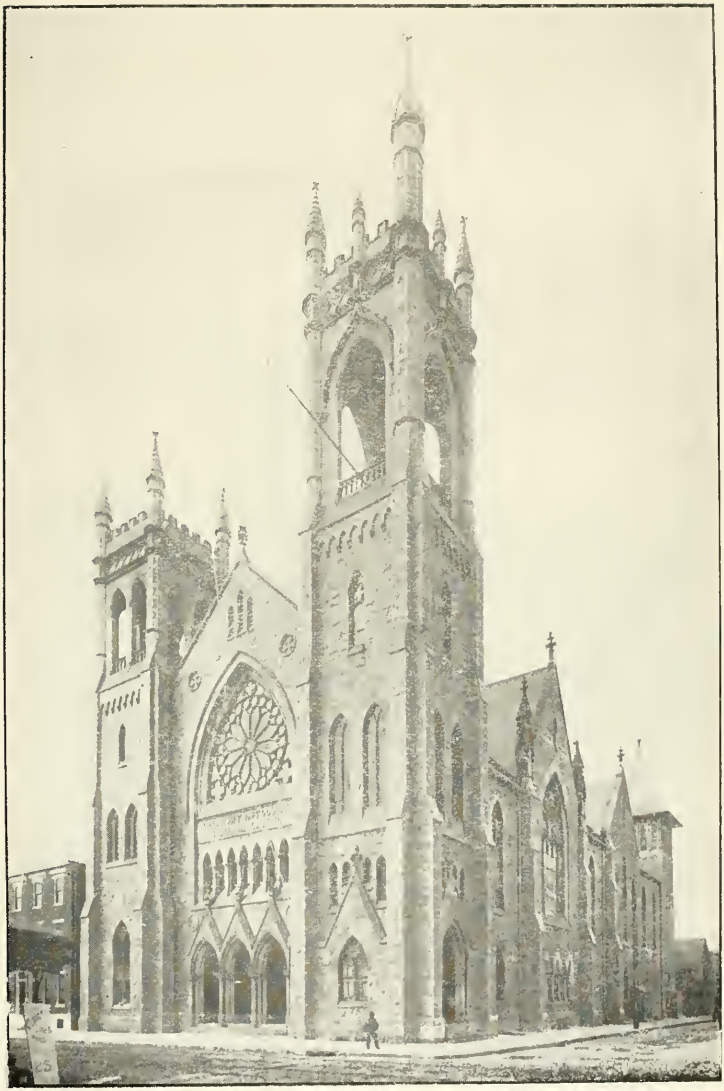
ference and the committee was authorized to build the church at a cost not to exceed $60,000.

On April 3, 1897, under the pastorate of Dr. James W. Marshall (who served from 1897 to 1903) the contract for the new church was awarded to Warner H. Jenkins & Co., of Philadelphia, for the sum of forty-five thousand, two hundred and thirty-five dollars ($45,235.00) for the building only. April 7, 1897, we commenced to tear down the old church building; June 17, 1897, the corner stone of the new church was laid; July, 1897, the committee was given authority to sell the old organ for $500 and purchase a new organ at a cost not to exceed $5,000.

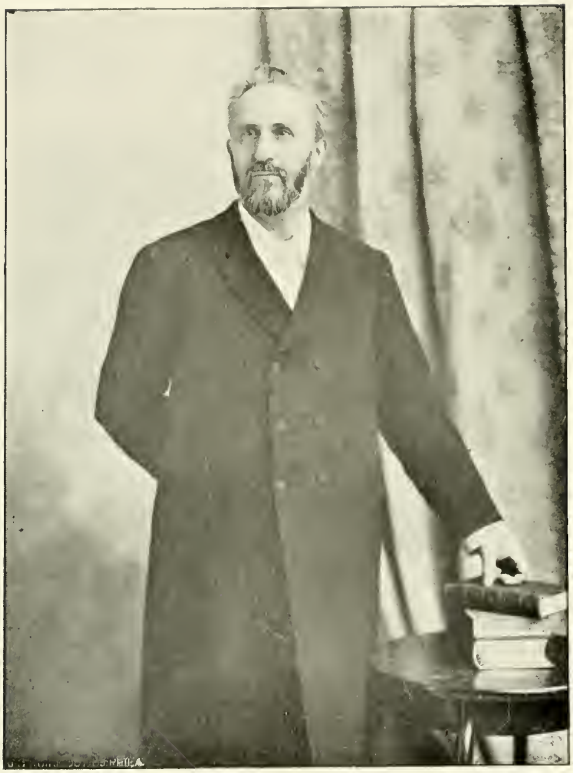
February, 1898, a Literary Society was organized under the pastorate of Dr. James W. Marshall, under the management of Miss Nellie D. Roberts, and afterwards Dr. Marshall oganized a Junior Literary Society, under the leadership of Brother S. H. Thompson. These have afforded much interest, instruction and literary entertainment to our young people.

On May 18, 1898, the Quarterly Conference agreed to dedicate the new church as soon as arrangements could be perfected. May 15 to 22, 1898, the new church was dedicated, with elaborate and impressive services.

From the dedication of the Main Auditorium, 1898, to our Semi-Centennial year, 1904, all the interest of the Church was fully maintained under the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Marshall, D. D., and Rev. George H. Neal. During this period we raised something over nine thousand dollars a year for the Building Fund. The same was applied



BROADWAY M. E. CHURCH, 1909



REV. J. W. MARSHALL, D. D.

to interest on debt, alterations and reduction of mortgage. All other collections were fully maintained.

October 9th to 16th, 1904, we celebrated our Semi-Centennial Anniversary by a grand jubilee:

Sunday, October 9th, Rev. H. W. Bolton, D. D., preached in the morning and evening. Rev. J. W. Lee delivered an address in the Sunday School. The Epworth League conducted the service to a large audience in the Auditorium.

Monday evening was Methodist night. Addresses were made by former pastors G. B. Wight, W. P. C. Strickland, Edmund Hewitt and J. W. Marshall. In the course of his remarks Dr. Wight said: "Broadway Church is my model. It has always met my ideas of Methodism. What a grand Official Board they have. I never will forget the hearty co-operation I met with in my efforts to place the church on a solid financial basis, from which evolved its present prosperous state. Broadway was ever liberal in contributions to benevolence and church enterprise."

Dr. Strickland, among other things, said: "The reasons for the wonderful success were because 'Broadway' possesses a united, aggressive, progressive Official Board, and a loyal congregation. It is 'the' church. It has stood as a unit, holding up the hands of the preacher and making it the glorious church it is to-day. It is built on human character and soul, and shines like a star."

Following Bro. Strickland's remarks a solo, "Oh God, Be Merciful," was rendered with splendid effect by John B. Riggins.

Dr. Hewitt said: "'Broadway' is a marvelous church, of marvelous growth and the good it has accomplished will never be known until the records of time are completed. The cause of this was a divine sight into all work with the requisite co-operation of the men and women of the church. It is the church of the Master, the church of the people, a united church, an evangelistic church, a young people's church."

When Chairman Meley presented Dr. J. W. Marshall he was greeted with spontaneous hand-clapping, a demonstration of the joy felt at seeing him looking so well after the serious illness of last winter. Dr. Marshall in part said: "I am proud of Broadway's fifty years existence, proud it has not yet reached the summit of its power and usefulness. I am glad that it has in it well-to-do men who put their money in it for great good; glad that the poor man is as welcome as the well-to-do. There is no more perfect illustration of an ideal church than 'Broadway.'"

Tuesday evening, "Portrayal of Broadway 50 Years Ago." Under the direction of the Social Committee, there was given a portrayal of "'Broadway" 50 years ago. About 150 persons, dressed in costume of olden times took part and sang the hymns of "olden times," as they were lined by the leader. Chairman Hallinger made an address. The church was crowded, and great satisfaction expressed.

Wednesday evening, Evangelistic Service. Rev. Charles M. Boswell made a stirring address, his text being, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

Thursday evening, Reception to Bishop Charles C.

McCabe. Addresses of welcome were made by Rev. Geo. H. Neal, "for Broadway Church"; Rev. Marshall Owens, "for Pastors"; Rev. W. P. Davis, "for Presiding Elders"; Rev. F. A Demaris, "For the Young People; Dr. A. E. Street, "for Laymen," and Rev. Edmund Hewitt "for New Jersey Conference."

Bishop McCabe then arose and in part said: "This welcome has been most flattering. I have always tried to do my best and I shall be pleased, if, when my work is done, my reward should be 'well done, good and faithful servant.'" The Bishop then went over his history as a missionary, which yas full of interest. He stated that the Methodist Church last year raised $2,000,000 for foreign missions.

At this service Dr. Neal took occasion to extend to the "Estey" Piano Company the thanks of the church for a handsome walnut upright piano, which the company had sent as a "jubilee" present. The piano is worth $500 and, less the value of an old instrument taken in part exchange at $50, the church received a net gain of $450.

Friday evening, "Grand Jubilee Concert." The concert was rendered under the direction of Dr. Marvin A. Street, Chairman of Committee, assisted by Professor Riggins and C. S. Ackley, and the following talent: Miss Carola Spaeth, pianist; Mr. Frederick E. Hahn, violinist; Mr. Wm. A. Schmidt, violincellist; Miss Helen Mar Wilson, reader and impersonator, and Miss Isabella Buchanan, soprano. This was a leading event, and was greatly appreciated by lovers of high-class entertainment.

Saturday: on Saturday afternoon a grand mass meeting

of the Junior Leagues of Camden and vicinity was held under the direction of S. H. Thompson, Conference Superintendent.

Saturday evening at six o'clock a banquet was served in the dining-room by Caterer Geo. J. Hemmer. To this all members and friends were invited, and a large number availed themselves of the privilege.

Chairman W. C. Riggs acted as Toastmaster. It was a very pleasant occasion.

Sunday, "Historical Day." The morning hour, after the regular opening services had been observed, was given over to the Committee, Bro. Jos. E. Roberts, Chairman.

The platform was occupied by members who have been connected with the church 25 years or more.

The historical service consisted of the reading of eight intensely interesting papers relative to Broadway's career, the good work accomplished and the methods by which it had been attained.

The first paper was the "History of Broadway Church," by J. E. Roberts, who in part said: "Broadway Church was organized May 9th, 1854, it being the outgrowth of a Sunday-school that was organized April 8th, 1848, at a meeting held at the house of Charles Sloan, on Berkley street.

"The following is a short summary of what we are, what we have accomplished, and our numerical, financial, social and active strength, as we cross the semi-centennial line of our existence.

"With our complete Sunday-school temple and auditorium edifice, second to none, possibly in our conference or State, at a total cost (including interest and inciden-

tals) $134,137.00, subject only to a debt of $24,500. We have a church membership of 1462, and a Sunday-school of 2003, which includes 107 at our Epworth Mission; including Cradle Roll, 38, and Home Department, 90, we have a school of 2131.

"We have an Epworth League of 573 members, and a Junior League of 351; a Literary Circle, a Home Guards, a Ladies' Parsonage Association, a Ladies' Auxiliary to the Methodist Episcopal Home, a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, a Woman's Home Missionary Society, a Poor Fund and Endowment (Folwell Legacy), our Woman's Thousand Dollar Club, etc., and Official Board Committees, such as Social Committee, Committee on Finance, on church notices, on order, on dining room and kitchen, on ushers, on repairs and supplies.

"We have a choir of fifty trained voices. inferior to nothing in Camden at least, and an orchestra of twenty-five active members.

"And thus equipped we enter another fifty years for the Lord, for the church and for humanity, like a noble ship under full sail, with every prospect pleasing.

"In our building operations; after it was found impossible to make the old building accommodate our necessities any longer, by further enlarging it, we took up the new building thought, and started out at first with the purpose of building a new church, on the old site only, at a cost not to exceed $40,000; but, after careful thought and deliberation it became quite apparent that such a building could not accommodate our then pressing and growing demands, and conforming to these new conditions we planned and arranged for our present edifice, 76x180 feet, at a total cost, including incidentals, furnishings and interest paid, $134,137.00, as above. The

Philadelphia Inquirer said last week, 'Broadway M. E. Church is the foremost church of that denomination in the United States.'

"Speaking of this edifice, Bishop McCabe said on Thursday night, as he stood and viewed it with its unique and elaborate decorations, with ten thousand (10,000) carnations, roses, palms, ferns, etc.,—there was one thought that impressed him, the only thing he could liken it to was, 'A bride adorned for her husband.'

"Our financial success has been beyond what the most sanguine dreamed of, and but little less surprising than the building itself. There has been actually paid into the Treasury to this date $109,663.12 and applied to reducing the debt. Our normal financial strength is about $20,000 a year, for all purposes.

"It would seem that we have builded better than we knew.

"As we consider what has been accomplished and listen to the words of commendation and praise, we would not be quite natural if we did not feel a little spirit of pardonable pride. But let us not forget that it is 'Old Broadway' still, with all her hallowed memories, her sacred the same worship, and so may it ever be, a church of the people and for the people, for pure and undefiled religion —really and truly, 'a bride adorned for her husband.' Yes, we have really builded a house unto the Lord, and His holy presence as within her sacred walls. 'But will God indeed dwell upon the earth?' 'Behold the heaven, the heaven of heavens, cannot contain Thee, how much less the house that I (we) have builded.'

"It is said, 'The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones.' But this good at least, that we have done, will not be interred with our bones, but will live on through many generations after

we shall have passed away. And the good that shall yet be accomplished within these hallowed walls will continue to live on a thousand years after decadence has marked these walls, and after this building shall have crumbled to dust and passed into oblivion. In this we have 'left our footprints in the sands of time' that the wintry storm and biting frost of a hundred years will not obliterate, but that 'others seeing may take heart again.' The good that has been accomplished in the fifty years just past will only be known in eternity; and shall not we and those who will follow us strive by all our possibilities to emulate the zeal and fervor of the past and contribute our full share by the help and blessing of Almighty God to make this building even more glorious than the former sanctuary in the conversion and salvation of multitudes of precious souls. A stupendous thought is forced upon us. Is it not evident that there is a manifest obligation placed upon us to accomplish a work in porportion to our greatly enlarged opportunity and blessing? If we do with our might what our hands find to do what will not the harvest be? This responsibility is too great for us to contemplate. Let us simply place our hands in His and say 'Where Thou dost lead we will follow. Lead us in the way Thou wouldst have us go and guide us with Thine eye.' "

"The Missions of Broadway Church" was a paper read by William S. Wolfe, Mr. Wolfe said: "It is well to remember how this very church sprang from the mission school of 1848. In May 1855, Sunday-school No. 2 was started on Pine street and afterward removed to Eighth and Walnut streets; the result of which was the present Eighth Street Church. Eagle Hall Mission, located on Pine street was sold in 1885 for $700, which sum was used in part purchase of ground at Third and Beckett streets, which resulted in the building of Wiley Church, dedicated

in October, 1885. And now we have the Epworth Mission at 1111 Pine street. It is a coincidence that all three of these missions originated on Pine street, two of which resulted in the foundation of churches and the third is located in a growing locality and should have a church in its midst."

"Instrumental Music in the church, how it was first received," was the topic assigned to Joseph Elverson. Mr. Elverson said: "When I first came to Broadway in the fall of 1860 the singing was led by a man with a tuning fork. Then they found they wanted some musical instruments. Some thought that wrong, but I consulted with Mr. Bruce, of the Estey Organ Company, and requested him to sell us a melodion on easy terms and he consented. The effect was magnetic, some of the brothers shouting and jumping in their ecstasy of joy.

"Some, however, took offense at the innovation and left Broadway, taking their certificates over to Eighth Street Church, forty or fifty of them, but they all came back again in time. It was hard to secure a player in those days, any one having an organ or piano in their home being considered some 'pumpkins.'

"Broadway church started the musical taste and sacred musical development in South Jersey from New Brunswick down. It cast its bread upon the waters and it has come back in the shape of the splendid 'Estey' piano presented on the occasion of Broadway's Fiftieth Anniversary."

"Broadway's Financial system" was presented by Financial Secretary, Wilbur F. Carhart, as follows: "The early financial system of our church was conducted upon the 'Wesleyan' basis, and in strict harmony with our church discipline, the money needed for the support of the ministry, being raised through the church classes,

the members paying to the leaders and they in turn passing it over to the Board of Stewards whose duties included the temporal care of the pastor.

"In 1878, during the pastorate of Rev. Geo. B. Wight, the Official Board inaugurated the 'Envelope System.'

"Since its inauguration, the system has been improved upon from time to time, so that to-day we have a most complete working plan.

"All money for the church and Sunday-school now passes through the hands of an officer known as 'Collection Receiver.' The person filling that position at the present time is Dr. A. E. Street, and with six assistants, meets weekly, on Monday evenings, to perform the duties of the office.

"The Collection Receiver is required to prepare a weekly detailed statement of all moneys received, for use of Financial Secretary, and also takes a receipt from the Treasurer covering the same.

"We have but one Treasurer for all Church and Sunday-school funds. That officer at the present time is Bro. W. C. Riggs. Bro. Riggs also receives the special subscriptions and passes the money through the Collection Receiver's weekly account.

"The contribution envelopes are furnished our people by the Financial Secretary through the medium of a 'Collector,' who distributes the envelopes and delivers notices.

"At the present time your Financial Secretary is keeping accounts with more than 1400 members. To credit your envelopes for the year it requires about 26,000 entries in our books. All blank forms used in Church and Sunday-School are prepared by the Financial Secretary, under the direction of the Board. He also purchases all Church and Sunday-school supplies.

"The finances are under the care of a large, efficient

committee. Among other things, it is their duty to prepare and submit to the Board an estimate of money required for our various interests, at the annual meeting in February of each year. They also take into consideration such matters as are referred to them by the Board, and report thereon.

"At the monthly meetings of the Board the Treasurer makes a report of the receipts and expenses of previous month and the Financial Secretary makes a detailed report of the current year to date, compared with previous year. With these two reports before them the Board have an intelligent understanding of the current financial condition of the Church and Sunday-school.

"In connection with this outline we would be pleased to state the amount of money our church has raised during the 50 years of her organization, but can only go back about 23 years, the total receipts for that time being $336,810.48. Of this amount $78,597.23 was for Conference and benevolent purposes; an average of $3,400 a year.

"For the information of our people we publish at the close of each year a full and complete annual report, together with our Church, Sunday-school, Epworth League, Choir, Social and Religious organizations.

"We do not claim to have yet reached a point of perfection but are ever ready to take advantage of every advance suggested, and with your co-operation, as in the past, we are sure of the success of 'Broadway' in the future."

"The Assembly Department," was the subject delegated to Harry L. Titus. "The Assembly," he said, "is the outgrowth of the overcrowded condition of the Sunday-school in 1879 and is therefore about half as old as the church. Joseph Elverson was the first superintendent

and filled the office for 23 successive years with the exception of one year, when Dr. Street held it. Henry S. Springer was elected superintendent in October, 1903. Hard, careful and persistent work has made it the success it is. At present there are over one thousand members in the department, a large Sunday-school in itself and the future is not restricted by finite bounds."

"The Ushers' Union," was the subject of a very interesting paper read by President Charles M. Curry.

Mr. Curry in part said: "The Ushers' Union of the Broadway M. E. Church was not in existence fifty years ago. If my informant is correct, it has now been some twenty years since a motion was made in the Board of Trustees by Wilbur F. Carhart, that young men be engaged to usher at the public services of the church, and from that time until to-day Broadway church has never been without a corps of ushers.

"For many years the ushers were appointed by the Official Board but in the fall of 1895 Brothers Joseph E. Roberts and Harry L. Titus, representing the Official Board, called the then acting ushers together to form an Ushers' Union, which was effected on September 29th, 1895, by the election of the following officers: President, Chas. M. Curry; Vice-President, C. Waldo Batchelor; Secretary, Randolph W. Rudderow; Treasurer, John B. Kates. The Union then formed is still in existence.

"The Official Board still has a guiding hand on the ushers in Brothers Joseph E. Roberts and William C. Riggs, as their committee. The Broadway Ushers' Union is the largest and best equipped union anywhere known; its laws are often applied for and given to other unions.

"The Union has a capacity for lifting a collection from either 1200 or 2500 people in three and one-half minutes. There is not a more competent, gentlemanly and courteous

corps of ushers than the young men of the Broadway Methodist Episcopal Church. Ushering is their business and they handle about 150,000 people every year and consider it a pleasure so to do."

Dr. Rufus Reed talked on the "Young People's Meetings." He asked all who were at the first meeting to rise up. Three responded.

"Well," said Dr. Reed, "those were the days of small things, but I tell you there was a great deal of power in those three in those days."

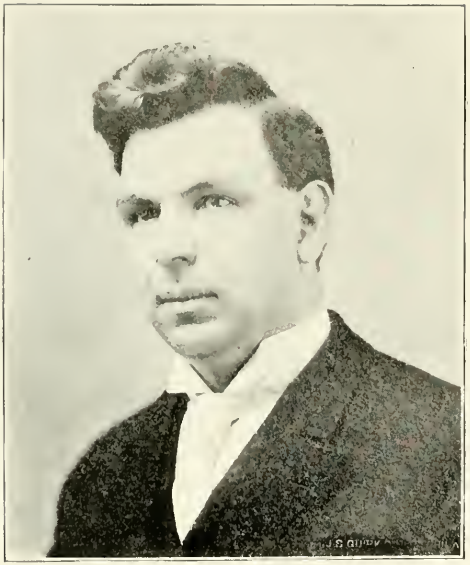
In 1889 the Epworth League was organized and the Young People's meeting was placed in their care. One thing the Young People's meetings accomplished was the building of the new church, claimed Dr. Reed.

Henry S. Springer spoke on the "Noted Revivals of Broadway Church." "Methodism," he said, "was an evangelistic religion and in such old 'Broadway' was born and now lives." Mr. Springer gave a history of all the famous revivals conducted in Broadway church since the early days of Rev. R. S. Harris, during the civil war, down through the passing years to the pastroate of Dr. Neal, telling of their soul saving power and the many well-known citizens converted at the altar.

Rev. Mr. Kulp, pastor of Trinity M. E. Church, delivered an able and instructive address at the Sunday-school service in the afternoon and in the evening Rev. Dr. William Anderson, of New York, secretary of the Educational Society, made a stirring and eloquent address at the anniversary exercises of the Epworth League.,

About 1600 persons attended the closing exercises. The music was superb, John B. Riggins rendering a solo in his usual sweet voice.

The address of Rev. Dr. Anderson, now Bishop Anderson, was a literary, as well as an intellectual treat. He



REV. E. J. KULP

advised young people to take as their motto in life: "Onward, upward, outward and Godward." He believed in the strenuous life and also in the author of it. The person who wanted 365 picnics in a year had the wrong conception of life. There are worlds within one to be conquered, the growls of wild beasts in the soul to be subdued. With a ringing appeal, Dr. Anderson concluded and the Fiftieth Anniversary of Broadway Church passed into history with the singing of the doxology.

Thus we crossed the semi-centennial line in 1904, under the pastorate of Rev. Geo. H. Neal, with a Building Fund debt as above of $24,500, which we continued to reduce at the rate of $5,000 to $6,000 a year, until June, 1909, under the pastorate of Rev. Edmund J. Kulp, the last dollar of debt was paid and we cancelled the mortgage and owed no man a dollar.

This occasion we celebrated on Sunday, June 6, 1909, by a grand Jubilee—9.30 A. M., Junior Epworth League, S. H. Thompson, Supt., and the Brotherhood Meeting, addressed by H. S. Springer. 10.30 A. M., under the direction of our pastor, Rev. E. J. Kulp.

After opening services and special music, responses, scripture reading, the Building Committee each made five minute addresses.

In the Sunday-school there was special music by the Mendelssohn Symphony Orchestra; words of congratulation by Dr. Marvin E. Street, General Superintendent, and address by Rev. G. H. Hemmingway, D. D., of the First Presbyterian Church of Camden.

6.15 P. M., Music by the Broadway Cornet Band on Berkley street.

6.30 P. M. Open Air Platform Meeting, on Berkley street. Singing, and address by Rev. Holmes F. Gravatt, of the First M. E. (Mother) Church of Camden. Also addresses by Rev. Robert Forbes, D. D., Secretary of Home Missions and Church Extension Society of our denomination and by our Pastor, Rev. E. J. Kulp.

7.30 P. M. the front of the church was grandly illuminated from the top of the tower to the centre over the door and a design strung across Broadway, in front of the church. Hon. Charles H. Ellis, Mayor of the City of Camden, turned on the lights while the congregation sang "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

7.45 P. M., Jubilee Service in the Auditorium: Selections by Mendelssohn Symphony Orchestra; address by Rev. Robert Forbes, D. D., and concluded by a Jubilee Zion March, accompanied by singing and music by the orchestra.

The time drawing near when the church is to be free of debt the young men of the Official Board feeling a deep sense of gratitude to their seniors, the Building Committee, who had labored so zealously to give them and the community such a magnificent temple in which to worship God, at a meeting of the Official Board proposed a testimonial banquet to them, which was unanimously adopted, and the following committee appointed to arrange for the same: Charles M. Curry, President of the Epworth League; Charles L. Creely, President of the Brotherhood; Marvin A. Street, General Superintendent of the Sunday school; Joseph C. White, First Vice-President of the Epworth League; John B. Kates, Superintendent of the Assembly.

The banquet was held on Thursday evening, April 22, 1909 at 7 oclock, in the commodious lecture room of the church, which was turned into a scene of splendor, with palms, cut flowers, Easter lilies, azaleas and pink decorations. It was a brilliant church social function. Two hundred and fifty people were in attendance to do honor to the guests—the Building Committee.

At 7.15 the strains of the Mendelssohn Symphony Orchestra were heard, which was the signal for the beginning. Rev. Dr. Sanford M. Nichols, Superintendent of Camden District, was called upon to offer prayer, after which the following menu was enjoyed: Raw oysters, saltines, celery, queen olives, mock turtle soup, fillet de boef, potato croquets, sliced tomatoes, almonds, cream mints, fried oysters, lobster cutlets, french peas, chicken salad, ice cream, fancy cakes, coffee.

After enjoying to the full the above menu, the literary program of the occasion was in order. In opening this part of the program the toastmaster referred to the fact that every member of the Building Committee was present except two, namely, Mr. Albert L. Mulford, deceased, and Thomas I. Gifford, now of California, who sent a letter of regret.

The Building Committee was appinted twenty-one years ago and as a result of their labors of love stands the great monument to Methodism, at the corner of Broadway and Berkley street, and it was in honor of these men of sterling worth and character that the banquet was given. The Building Committee consisted of Joseph E. Roberts, chairman; Thomas I. Gifford, W. F. Carhart, Dr. A. E. Street, Joseph Elverson, Dr. Rufus Reed, Harry

L. Titus, Albert L. Mulford, William C. Riggs and Chas. S. Ackley.

In keeping with the occasion, the Banquet Committee invited a number of the former pastors, and these, with the other speakers, gave many reminiscences of the past, and were heartily applauded. The program included: Selections, Mendelssohn Orchestra; "Building the Temple," Rev. Edmund Hewitt, D. D.; "Six Years of Church Building and Money Raising," Rev. James William Marshall, D. D.; "Lines to the Building Committee," Dr. A. E. Street; "Five Years' Achievements," Rev. George H. Neal, Ph.D.; "Free of Debt—What of the Future?" Rev. Edmund J. Kulp.

Following these speeches came brief remarks by members of the Building Committee, who delighted all with their stories of the by-gone days. Henry S. Springer, a former member of the Building Committee, was called on and he in turn called on the guests to express ther hearty appreciation of the work of the Banquet Committee, which they did in a rising vote of thanks.

The women were represented in the speeches by a few words from Mrs. A. L. Mulford, who expressed her great appreciation of the courtesy extended her. The last address of the evening was given by Rev. Sanford M. Nichols, and then followed congratulations to the Building Committee.

The following original poem was read by the author, Dr. A. E. Street, at the banquet:

All the human race would fain be wits,
And millions miss for one that hits.

Young's universal passion pride
Was never known to spread so wide,
A foundered horse will oft debate
Before he tries a Pitman Gate.
But man, the only creature
Who, led by folly, combats nature.
Be mindful when invention fails,
To scratch your head and bite your nails,
But if you blub you are undone,
Consider what a risk you run.

They say the call of a poet should be
Like the breast of a shell that remembers the sea:
Quiet and still, save a murmuring sigh
Of the far-rolling wave to the summer-lit sky;
Tasteful and polished, coraline bowers,
Remote from intrusion, and fragrant with flowers.
'Twould be beautiful, surely, but as for me,
Nothing like this you'll expect to see;
For I've written my poetry, sooth to say,
To the Building Committee, by night and day.
With embryo rhymes and line upon line,
A welcome to you to be read at this time.

You may think it great folly, such garlands to twine,
Its to brighten life's cares and its pleasures refine.
Now Brothers, if paper were wanting or pencils have fled,
Some niche in your brain, spread a storehouse instead.
In spite of Pope, who has his say,
Sing I must, and sing I will
Of Hewitt and Marshall who led the way.
Thoughts that have tarried in my mind
And peopled its chambers, have been so kind,
Blow the trumpet, spread the wing, let us all their praises
sing
Fling the scroll upon the sky, these men who led we'll not
pass by.
Thoughts that wake me in the dawn,
Flit before me, now they're gone
Into rainbows, spangled rills,
That my soul with music fills.
Brothers, thy work as mountains grand
In their shadows now we stand;
While your health to-night we drink,

Loving thoughts with mossy brink,
To these ministers, brave and bold,
Loving duty more than gold.
To God, who crowned their work, we pray,
Give them great peace, each and every day.

Let us draw rein, look back a minute,
Peep at our team to see who's in it.
At its head is one Roberts, pessimistic we know,
But as a lead horse, he made the work go;
To speak of him requires great skill,
For the Board agrees he fills the bill.
Come April showers or Winter's snow,
Once he's in it, the thing will go.

Entwine a garland, make us sing,
Glad as bluebirds on the wing,
To him, who gave those happy days,
Our voices blend and give all praise.
How he'll behave it's hard to tell
When the debt is paid and all is well.

The question that bothered about the new church,
Who will land us? Will its finances lurch?
Mid shoals and rocks in days though dark,
'Twas Treasurer Tom who safely steered the bark.
And still by our side unforgetful and true
Brother Gifford was with us nearly all the way through.
In memory always dear to me
He, follower of the Man of Galilee;
Not long ago; it seems ages,
Since this peer of all the sages
Wandered from our church away—
Little did we think he'd stay.

Peep again at the counting table,
Treasurer Riggs is fully able
To fill the place laid down by Tom—
He's the one who financed us on.
Well pleased with a buzz or a song of power,
Whatever he does like a bee in a flower,
When money comes in he is not sour,
For it makes him happy every hour
He gives his time and patience sway

To gather money is no play,
Our brother bestowed his tenderest care
To find one so true 'tis hard to compare.
How often we unheeding pass
And credit those who should have it last.
How good it is in God's great love,
He credits all in His book above.
Our love for Will, will stand the test
And crown him now the Board's best guest.

Forgetting Carhart of whom we are proud,
His praises skyward we speak aloud.
Busy morning till night, working early and late,
Reports to have ready, and all up-to-date.
Wilbur: if there were more like you—
And Heaven knows we need 'em too—
Your job's a field that's hard to till;
Your footsteps in the furrows fill;
Your reward is sure, so drink your fill;
The church is a factor with your skill;
Is praised, north, south, east and west,
But by our Board appreciated the best.
On the roll of fame we, just the same,
In the higher niche will scribe your name.
The oldest, youngest spirit of this crew,
Concerning the pipe organ was in a great stew,
Come rain, come sunshine, if a majority voted
Elverson faithful as the work promoted,
Stood by the ship till the towers were ended,
Joined in the anthem where his voice blended,
No family ever belonged in the old or the new,
As Father Elverson's, who helped carry it through.

In times of old, when Time was young,
And poets their own verses sung,
A verse would draw a stone or beam
That now would overload a team.
Neither rhyme or reason can be made
How ungrudgingly Dr. Reed lent his aid.
The buildings rose in proportion to his wit,
He made no mistake for here we sit,
Capacious home; 'tis owned by all,
A type of modern art and style—
This great and glorious Broadway pile.

One of our number, Mulford, has gone to rest
Friend to the church, our pilgrimage blest
How light his heart, sunlight through,
The tree-tops had but this to do.
He paved our path with golden cheer,
In sunshine or showers was always near.
Now as we surround the festive board,
He, we know, is with our Lord.
We sigh for the touch of the vanished hand,
Who has passed on to the shadow land;
The hand of our friend, once so dear,
His spirit now, not the hand, is near.

No relation to Old Harry (who lives below)
But faithful and true to make the church go—
An up-to-date leader, Presbyterian by birth,
Converted a Methodist, now full of mirth,
In time of revival, he's always on hand,
Both early and late with the workers band.
He amens the preacher and helps him pull through—
Without Brother Titus, what on earth would we do?

Last but not least, to join the crew,
Without him now what can we do?
Astride of a horse with garlands gay,
Ackley was in it when the band did play.
Covered with glory among the saints who did it,
He smiles serenely and says, "we're in it."
He's a good steward, and looks after the poor,
In church or city, in fact, he's a doer.

Street joined the church when Chalker was Pastor,
His interests were in it, always thereafter;
He joined in the crew who pulled the church thro—
Helped pray down the walls when Hewitt was new
And in at the finish to see the debt out,
Hopes for chime bells, new parsonage and still be about.

Not forgetting Mace, Hancock and Neal and Brother
Kulp too,
Who helped our Committee to push the work through,
All hail to the future and Church free of debt,
Shake hands all round when the bond is met—

CHAS. LAFFERTY. CHAS. E. CRATE. WM. S. WOLFE. WM. J. BODDY. CHAS. M. CURRY. LOUIS W ANCKER. R. W RUDDEROW
DR. ELI R. TULLIS. HENRY S. SPRINGER. JOS. ELVERSON. HARRY L. TITUS. DR. RUFUS REED.

OFFICIAL BOARD OF BROADWAY M. E. CHURCH, 1909

DR. W. I. BARRETT R. L. WAKREN. CHAS. L. CLEELY. W. H. JONES. W. H VANDEVEER WILBERT S. SWEETEN. W B. WHITE. C C READ. P. D. HUGHES.
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JOHN B. KATES. WM C. RIGGS. W. F. CARHART. REV. EDMUND J KULP. JOS. E ROBERTS DANIEL B. GREEN.

OFFICIAL BOARD OF BROADWAY M. E. CHURCH, 1909

Burn the mortgage slowly, with hearts full of love,
Sing a final doxology to our God who is above.

Following are the names of the ministers and years of their service:

1854, Rev. R. S. Arndt; 1855-'6, Rev.J.H.Knowles; 1857, Rev. J. J. Hanley; 1858-'9, Rev. C. K. Fleming; 1860-'1, Rev. C. W. Heisley; Sept. 1861, he was made Chaplain in the Army. 1861, Rev. R. M. Stratton, supply. 1862-'3, Rev. R. M. Harris; 1864, Rev. G. M. Hitchens; 1865-'6, Rev. William Walton; 1867-'8-'9, Rev. R. M. Chalker; 1870-'1-'2, Rev. George Hughes; 1873-'4, Rev. J. S. Phelps; 1875, Rev. H. M. Brown; 1876-'7, Rev. George Reed; 1878-'9-'80, Rev. G. B. Wight; 1881-'2-'3, Rev. M. Relyea; 1884-'5-'6, Rev. Wm. P. Davis; 1887-'8-'9, Rev. W. P. C. Strickland; 1890-'1-'2-'3, Rev. E. Hewitt; 1894-'5, Rev. E. C. Hancock; 1896, Rev. J. R. Mace; 1897-'8-'9-1900-'1-'2, Rev. J. W. Marshall; 1903-'4-'5-'6-'7, Rev. G. H. Neal; 1908-'9, Rev. E. J. Kulp.

Ministers and Missionaries sent out by Broadway: 1864, Rev. S. S. Weatherby; 1877, Rev. W. E. Lilly; 1879, Rev. J. R. Thompson; 1880, Rev. S. Campbell; 1884, Rev. E. C. Hulse; 1893, Rev. W. McClosky; 1895, Rev. H. White; 1896, Rev. T. S. Brock; 1896, Rev. J. H. Batten; 1904, Rev. G. S. Goff; 1905, Rev. L. S. Moore; 1907, Rev. J. Mace.

Sunday School Superintendents and years of service: 1852-'3, Mr. Beldon; 1854-'5, I. B. Read; 1856-'7-'8, Arnt, Clopper, Mayhew; 1859-'60-'1, J. H. Fenton; 1862-'3-'4, J. Elverson; 1865-'6, E. Tullis; 1867, Mr. Burrell; 1868-9, J. C. Clopper; 1870-'1-'2-'3-'4-'5-'6, M. E. Clark; 1877-'8-'9, J. Elverson; 1880, H. L. Titus; 1881, G. W. Quigley; 1882 to 1892, A. E. Street; 1893 to 1899, H. L. Titus; 1900 to 1907, A. E. Street; 1908-'9, M. A. Street.

HISTORY OF THE

Tabernacle Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

Tabernacle was the fourth Methodist Episcopal Church erected in Camden, N. J. In 1859, Camden had but a small population, and the northern part of the city had been but sparsely settled. None of the streets running north and south were built up to Vine street, except Second street, and from east to west above the Camden and Atlantic Railroad were waving fields of corn. North Third street was built up in a few places above Penn street, and the roadway was merely a wagon track about two feet below the present grade. North Fourth street had not been laid out above Penn, and the open lots were the base ball grounds of that generation.

However, in the northeast corner of the city, known then and now as Cooper's Point, houses were cotinually going up to meet the demands of the ship carpenters and those engaged in similar occupations, and as the population increased, some of the good brethren of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, then known as Third Street, took upon themselves the delightful duty of gathering together the children upon Sunday afternoon, and under the waving willows by the banks of the Delaware, the first mission Sunday School of Camden, was organized.

Foremost among the workers in this mission Sunday School, was a local preacher named Reily Barrett, and he was ably assisted by Benjamin F. Day, Esq., a well-known shipbuilder at that time. The Sunday School under the willows was a success and an inspiration to all concerned, and they sang their hymns and studied their Bibles out in the open air as long as the weather permitted, and then as the fall and winter came, they met in the homes of the different brethren, but were greatly hindered for lack of accommodation. The brethren of Cooper's Point also felt the need of some convenient place of worship, as there was no Methodist Church this side of Federal street.

The matter was informally talked over upon various occasions, and in the beginning of 1860, Joseph W. Cooper, Esq., offered these people some lots at the corner of Third and Vine streets, and on the evening of the 16th of February, 1860, four persons: Riley Barrett, Amasa B. Mathis, Samuel T. Nicholson and Benjamin F. Day, held a meeting under the mulberry tree, which stood at the corner of Third and Vine streets, and formed a society, adopting the name of Tabernacle Methodist Episcopal Church, of Camden, N. J. Riley Barrett was Chairman of this first meeting. The meeting adjourned to meet at the house of Amasa B. Mathis, at the corner of York and Point streets, on Monday evening, February 27th, at 7.30, for the purpose of electing a Board of Trustees for the Tabernacle Methodist Episcopal Church. The notices for the Trustee Election were publicly posted, one of them on the old mulberry tree under which this meeting was held.

At the time appointed, February 27th, the Trustee Election was held at the house of Amasa B. Mathis, with the Rev. E. H. Stokes, pastor of the Third Street Church, as Chairman, and Nathan T. Mulliner, as Secretary.

Rev. E. H. Stokes opened the meeting with prayer. The following brethren were elected as trustees for the ensuing year: Riley Barrett, Samuel T. Nicholson, Amasa B. Mathis, J. C. De La Cour, Benjamin F. Day, Charles L. Porter and John B. Thompson.

At the adjournment of the meeting, the trustees met and organized, electing Riley Barrett as President, Charles L. Porter, Secretary, and Benjamin F. Day, Treasurer.

The first regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the house of Riley Barrett, President of the Board, on the 26th of March, 1860. At that time, the certificate of incorporation was received from the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, of the County of Camden, State of New Jersey. The said certificate was then filed with the papers of the church. At the same meeting Brothers Riley Barrett and Samuel T. Nicholson were appointed a committee to attend to getting a deed for the lot of ground mentioned in the certificate of incorporation.

The next meeting of the Board was held on the 3rd of April. The lots having been agreed upon, the trustees decided to build a church thirty feet front by sixty feet deep. This was afterward changed to thirty-two feet front. Another meeting was held on April 6th, at which a Building Committee was appointed of three members: C. L. Porter, J. B. Thompson and B. F. Day. This Committee was authorized to purchase stone and make arrangements for laying the foundation.

On the 17th of April, the lots were reported to have been surveyed—five lots aggregating 100 feet on Vine street and 150 feet on Third street. At this meeting,

Brother Barrett was authorized to sign a bond and mortgage for the lots.

The outlook was now so propitious that it was decided to lay the corner-stone on the first of May, at 3.00 P. M. Rev. Samuel Y. Monroe, pastor of Third Street Church, was authorized to secure suitable speakers for the occasion.

The first day of May was unfavorable for the exercises, and the corner-stone laying was postponed for one week. The corner-stone was laid on the 8th of May, 1860, the services beginning at 3.00 P. M. Rev. H. B. Beigle read the eighty-fourth Psalm; Rev. Mr. Davis, of the South Illinois Conference, read the hymn beginning:

"This stone to thee, in faith, we lay;
This temple, Lord, to thee we raise,
Thine eye be open night and day,
To guard this house of prayer and praise."

which was sung by the congregation. Prayer was then offered by Rev. C. W. Heisley.

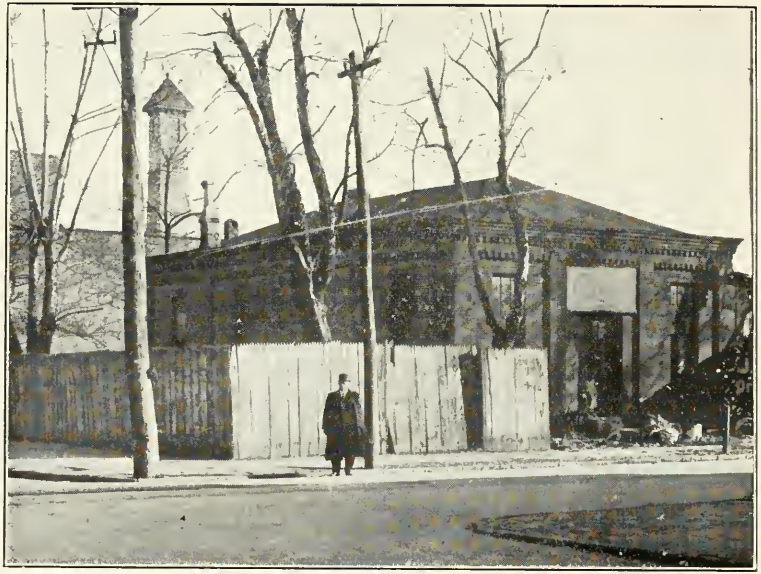
After the preliminary exercises, the Rev. J. W. Jackson delivered an address of about an hour's length, so interesting in its character that, notwithstanding the audience was compelled to stand, at the same time being exposed to the heat of the sun, great attention was paid and the time was seemingly short. Rev. E. H. Stokes urged a liberal collection, and Mr. Bailey related an anecdote, calculated to stir the heart to noble deeds. A collection was taken and two hundred and fifty dollars subscribed, and about ten dollars put in the baskets. The ceremony of

laying the corner-stone was then performed, and the box deposited therein. The contents of the box were as follows: Bible, Discipline, copy of General Rules, Hymn Book, Christian Advocate and Journal, Minutes of New Jersey Annual Conference, Church Organization Papers and Act of Incorporation, Names of Officers of Camden City and Philadelphia Newspapers. The exercises were closed by singing and prayer.

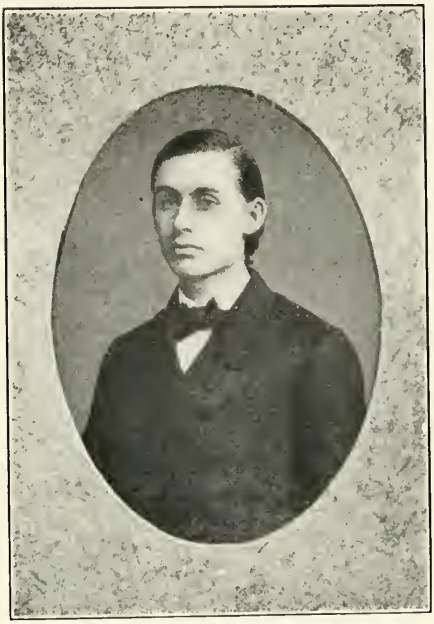
After the laying of the corner-stone, the work was prosecuted until the building was ready for dedication. This interesting service was attended to on the 1st of November, 1860. No meeting was held in the morning. The dedication sermon was preached in the afternoon, by Rev. D. W. Bartine, on the text, "But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord."—II Corinthians, 3:18. In the evening, Rev. A. Cookman preached on "Thy Kingdom Come" —Matthew 6:10. The services were then announced to be continued on the following Sabbath, Nov. 4th, at which time Dr. Robinson preached.

During the fall and winter, a protracted effort was held in connection with Third Street Church. Many were the happy seasons enjoyed by the children of God in the newly consecrated temple, and the souls created anew in Christ Jesus were not a few. About a hundred persons professed conversion during the revival. A class was then established at Tabernacle, with George Humes as leader, the class being connected in membership to Third Street Church.

As the session of the New Jersey Annual Conference



TABERNACLE, FIRST BUILDING, 1 860



REV. W. S. BARNART

drew near, the brethren living in the northern part of Camden, thought it well to try to get a pastor sent them, consequently, consultations were held, subscription-papers were circulated and after obtaining pledges for about four hundred and seventy-five dollars, the Bishop with his Cabinet, so far listened to them as to set off Brother Humes' class from Third Street, and appoint Rev. W. S. Barnart to the charge. The persons belonging to the Society, and hence the ones starting off with the new church were: Members—William Crim, Henry Cheesman, Abigail Cheesman, George Humes, George Hirst, Rebecca Hirst, Amasa B. Mathis, Samuel T. Nicholson Reuben Parvin, Kezia Parvin, Jane Shourds, Mary E. Shaw, Samuel Townsend, Elizabeth Townsend. Probationers—Joseph Moore, Angelina Moore, Rebecca Moore, Arabella Ballinger, Amanda Hall, Lydia Wright, Anna Beckett, John Arritt, Rebecca Carter, Margaret Risley, Rachel J. Waggoner. These have all passed away, and of the children who attended that first Sunday School only three are now known to be members of the Tabernacle Church: Penrose W. Hirst, Chas. S. Wolverton and Richard B. Doughty.

The Tabernacle Quarterly Conference was organized on April 10th, 1861. The meeting was held at the home of Henry B. Cheesman, and was opened with prayer by A. K. Street, Presiding Elder. W. S. Barnart, preacher in charge, also George Humes, the class leader, were present. The pastor appointed Henry B. Cheesman as leader of the Tuesday night class meeting about to be organized. The following were elected as stewards: Benjamin F. Day, John Ambruster, Samuel T. Nicholson, Amasa B. Mathis and Jacob Dannenhower, all of whom were present. S. T. Nicholson was appointed Recording Steward.

The pastor's salary was fixed at four hundred dollars per year. The secretary of this Quarterly Conference was Jacob Danenhower, who is the only member of this first official body now living.

The first leaders' and stewards' meeting was held April 18th, 1861, when they met at the home of Amasa B. Mathis.

The next session of the Quarterly Conference was held June 27th, 1861, when John Ambruster was appointed District Steward. The report of the Sunday School from the preacher in charge, showed the following: Number of schools, 1; officers and teachers, 26; scholars, 134; Bible classes, 4. At the last Quarterly Conference, the pastor reported the expenses of the school for the year to have been forty-six dollars.

The report at the Conference of 1862 showed forty-seven members, church property, $4,000.

The next pastor was Rev. Levi Larew. The first Quarterly Conference, June 6th, 1862, estimated the salary at four hundred dollars, and voted to give the pastor a donation visit some time during the year.

Rev. Levi Larew was appointed for the second year. The committee on salary reported four hundred and fifty dollars for this Conference year, the preacher to pay his own house rent, but the pastor received $510.00. The membership at this time was eighty in number.

1864

Rev. J. H. Stockton was appointed pastor; the same

year S. Y. Monroe was made Presiding Elder of the Camden District. This year the First Quarterly Conference estimated the pastor's salary five hundred dollars and house rent. The report at this Quarterly Conference showed two Sunday schools, with Jacob Danenhower as superintendent of the Tabernacle school and J. B. Thompson, superintendent of the Thompson school. During this year, there was a change in the Presiding Eldership, J. B. Dobbins taking the place of S. Y. Monroe.

1865

Rev. J. H. Stockton returned to the charge, and the salary was made six hundred dollars and house rent. At the Third Quarterly Conference, held November 9th, 1865, a committee was appointed to ascertain the practicability of obtaining a parcel or lot of ground, for the site of a new church. On motion, Brothers J. W. Carter, Jacob Danenhower, E. England, A. B. Mathis and the pastor were appointed the committee.

1866

About this time, the question of building a new church was being seriously considered, and at a meeting held on February 22nd, 1866, the pastor, Rev. J. H. Stockton, was authorized to call a meeting of the entire male membership, to take into consideration the advisability of building a new church. On the 1st of March 1866, the trustees were instructed to purchase a suitable piece of ground, and to build said house of worship as soon as a sufficient amount of money should be subscribed to warrant them to do so, as the Church was greatly embarrassed in consequence of the want of a suitable house

of worship in the proper place. The membership at the close of Rev. J. H. Stockton's term was 134. At the Conference this year, Rev. James White was appointed pastor. At the Third Quarterly Conference, November 8th, 1866, J. W. Carter, B. F. Day and John M. Hall, were appointed a committee to see about the purchase of a lot of ground, on which to erect a new church, and to make inquiry about the sale of the present church.

1867

On January 4th, 1867, it was decided to purchase the lots at the northeast corner of Third and Pearl streets, the committee having previously considered with some favor the location at the northwest corner of Fourth and Linden. Pastor White received $750 salary, and left a membership of 150.

At a meeting held on the 29th of April, it was resolved to erect a temporary building for the use of the Church, and a Mr. Gaskel, who owned lots, gave permission to the trustees to erect a temporary wooden structure upon his property. This building was known as the Plank Church, or "Wigwam," and stood near the site of the present church. The congregation worshipped in the "Wigwam" until the completion of the Lecture Room of the new church edifice.

This year, Rev. Jefferson Lewis was appointed Presiding Elder of the Camden District, and John W. Hickman, pastor of Tabernacle. The pastor's salary was estimated at $1,000.

1868.

Rev. John W. Hickman was re-appointed pastor. On

November 5th, 1868, Riley Barrett, so closely connected with the history of the church, passed to his heavenly reward. He had transferred his membership to the Tabernacle Church in July, 1863. At the Third Quarterly Conference, held November 14th, 1868, the following preamble and resolutions were presented and passed:—

Whereas, Since the last meeting of the Quarterly Conference of the Tabernacle charge, the Rev. Riley Barrett, a Local Elder and a member of this body, has deceased; and whereas, he has been a faithful and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for about fifty-six years, and most of that time an official member in various capacities, therefore,

Resolved, That we will cherish his memory as a brother beloved, and as a devoted and long-tried friend to the Cause of God, and to the advancement of Methodism in Camden and the regions round about.

Resolved, secondly, That while we cherish his memory as a father in the Gospel, we will, as sons, strive to emulate his virtues and imitate his toils in promoting the blessed Cause he loved so well.

Resolved, thirdly, That we deeply sympathize with his aged widow and devoted children in their loss of an affectionate husband and father, though we are more than satisfied that our loss is his infinite gain.

Resolved, fourthly, That the Secretary be instructed to furnish a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to the family of the deceased.

1869.

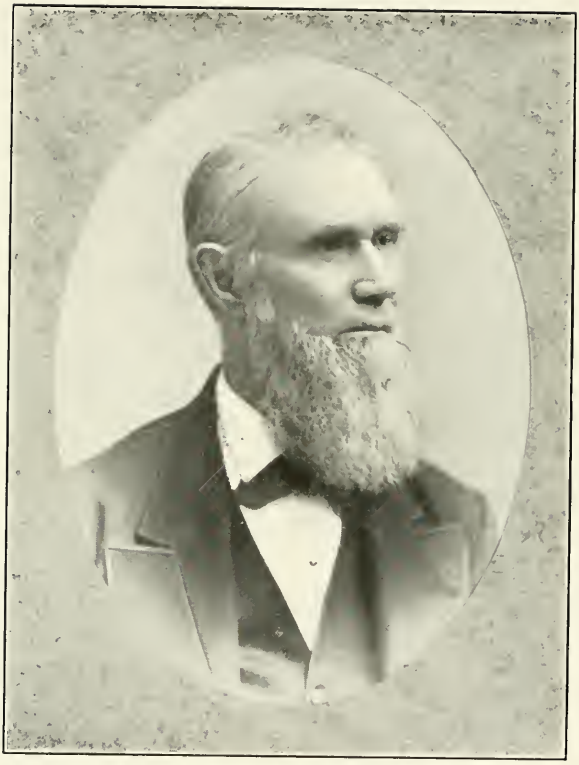
Rev. John W. Hickman was appointed pastor for the third year.

A commentary on the discipline of the Church at that time, may be found in the minutes of the second Quarterly Conference of this year, in which the names of six persons are recorded as having for a long time absented themselves from the means of grace. The preacher in charge was authorized to erase their names as withdrawn from the church. The records show that in the years following, others were dropped from the church roll for the same cause.

During this year, the work on the new church progressed rapidly, so that the Conference in 1869, the Presiding Elder, Jefferson Lewis, embodied in his report to Conference, the following item: Tabernacle, the third organization from Third Street, enclosed their new house of worship, 80 x 60, during the winter, and finished the lecture room, and now occupy it. They expect to finish the audience room the approaching summer. The brethren and sisters of this charge, with their faithful pastor, have worked, all worked, and worked well, under many discouragements."

1870.

At the Conference of 1870, J. W. Hickman closed his three years' pastorate with two hundred and twenty members. The church property was valued at $146.00, the same as the year previous, the congregation having worshipped during the year in the lecture room, as the main audience room had not been completed.



REV. S. E. POST

Samuel E. Post was the next pastor of the church. To him fell the task of completing the church and carrying the organization through three years of struggle with debt. He found a debt of nearly $10,000. All but $1,800 of which, covered by mortgage, was in the hands of the sheriff. The pastor collected and paid over, large sums of money during his three years' ministry. The church was completed and dedicated in November. 1870. Upon the advice of Bishop Simpson, the services of B. F. Ives, D. D., of Auburn, New York, who was a great money raiser, were secured. Dr. Ives preached both morning and evening on the day of dedication and managed the finance. Enough money was subscribed during the day, to cover the entire debt, but many of the subscriptions were never paid. Mr. Post was paid $1200 a year salary. He was preacher and business manager both for the struggling society. At the close of his pastorate, there were 256 members. The church property was valued at $30,000. probably a liberal estimate, with a debt of $11,000.

The material of the Plank Church was used in building the Brick Church. It was built of planks so that they might be used for joists in the new building. In the interval between the tearing down of this wooden building and the completion of the lecture room in the new building the congregation worshipped in the Court House.

The next pastor was Rev. C. K. Fleming, who served one year, when the report shows 210 members and $13,000 debt.

1874.

Rev. Geo. K. Morris was appointed pastor, and salary estimated $1,500. During his pastorate, the membership was greatly increased and the debt reduced. There was a

great revival in 1876, and 134 persons were received on probation. At the close of his term, the membership numbered 368.

1877.

In 1877, Rev. Edmund Hewitt was appointed to the charge, and enjoyed three successful years. There was another great revival in 1879, and 138 people were taken in on probation. The membership in his last report numbered 425.

1880.

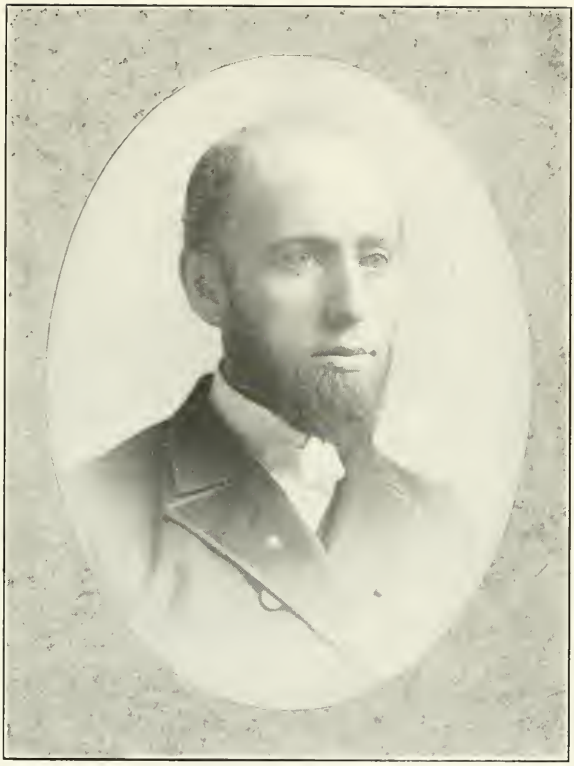
In 1880, Rev. Geo. S. Sykes was appointed and served two years, leaving 392 members.

1882.

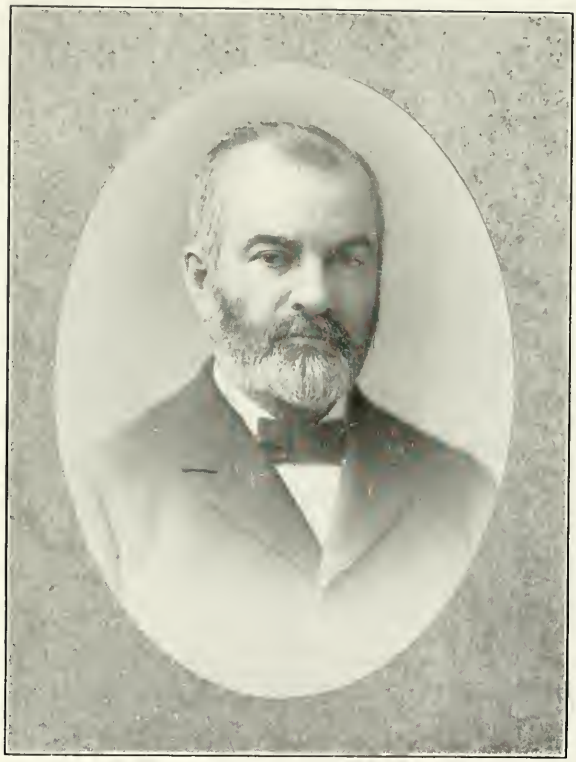
In 1882, Rev. John S. Heisler was appointed pastor. Under his administration the building was greatly improved and a new parsonage was purchased during the first year of his pastorate. There were a number of conversions each year of his pastorate—80 probationers were received the first year. The salary was $1,600. At the end of his three years there were 490 members and the debt at this time was $13,772. The Society also owned a church building on State street, used as a mission.

1885.

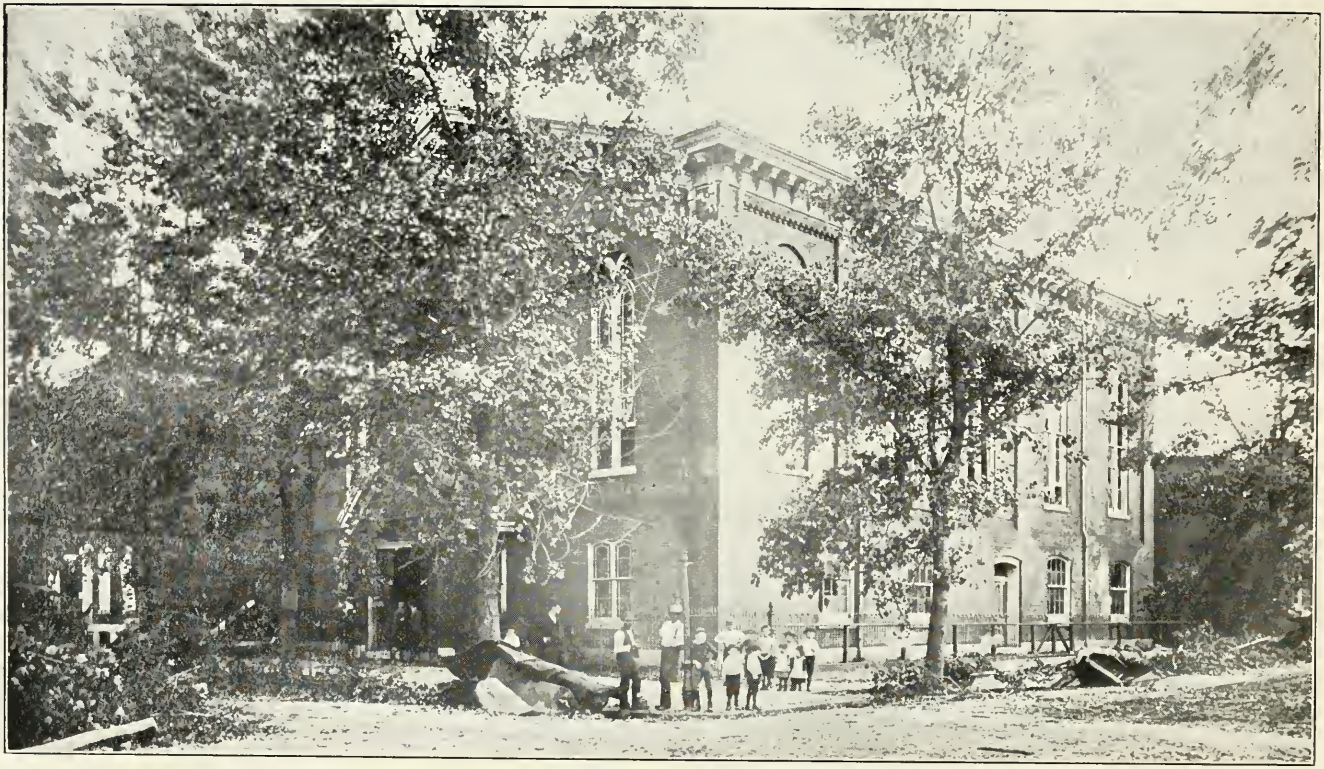
Rev. John Y. Dobbins was appointed the pastor in 1885, and labored here for three years. On August 3d, 1885, Camden was visited by a terrible cyclone, which killed three persons and utterly destroying many thousands of dollars' worth of property in the northern portion of the city. The church was wrecked, being shaken to its foundation, and was utterly unsafe to worship in. The heroic



JOHN Y. DOBBINS



WALTER M. PATTON



TABERNACLE M. E. CHURCH (Destroyed by Cyclone 1885)

zeal of the membership in the face of this disaster, was marvellous. The Presiding Elder's report in the Conference Minutes of 1886, contains the following reference: "The tornado of August 3d, left the Tabernacle Church of Camden so great a wreck that re-building was considered unsafe. Inspired by their pastor, the brethren heroically resolved to rise in the name of the Lord and build greater. With great unanimity, they decided upon a substantial and commodious edifice of brown stone, upon a modern plan, with a seating capacity for fifteen hundred. With extraordinary energy, they have pushed the enterprise along, and expect to occupy the lecture room in May. The debt will be considerable, but the heroic zeal of the officiary commends them to the sympathy of the entire Conference. Notwithstanding their large enterprise, they paid all current expenses and raised more missionary money than ever before."

The moving spirit among the laymen in the new building enterprise was Walter M. Patton, the President of the Board of Trustees and the indefatigable superintendent of the Sunday School. With him, to think was to act. He was soon out on the street, soliciting subscriptions, and his faith enkindled the faith of others. He found, like the prophet of old, that the people had a mind to work.

The Camden Echo published October 17th, 1885, ten weeks after the cyclone, contained this notice: "The new building for the Tabernacle Methodists has been commenced. Within a very short space of time, the old building has disappeared; the foundations dug out, and the builders are erecting the new church in its place." The fifth number of the "Echo," published November 7th of the same year, contained an account of the laying of the corner-stone. Wednesday, November 4th, 1885, was the

date of the ceremony, and the friends who, three months before were in despair, were now jubilant and were ready to sing, so the "Echo" tells us,

"Happy day; Happy day;
When the cyclone blew our church away."

Among those who took part in the ceremony were Presiding Elder J. S. Gaskill, Revs. G. B. Wight, Dr. Charles H. Whitecar, A. K. Street, J. H. Payran, John W. Hickman, Pastor J. Y. Dobbins and Mr. Walter M. Patton. General Fisk was expected to lay the stone, but in his absence, the Presiding Elder performed the ceremony.

To show with what zeal Mr. Patton had undertaken the work, we may state that he announced that day that he had pledges of $17,000 of the amount required.

While the work of building was going on, the members worshipped in their mission church on State street and in Morgan's Hall, and the Sunday School met in the public school house near by, which had been kindly loaned for the purpose.

Among the plans devised for raising the funds, we remember that Mr. Patton appealed to many of the Sunday Schools in this and other cities, promising that each school contributing fifty dollars, should have a stained glass memorial window in the new church. Among the schools contributing were several outside of the city.

Sunday, June 20th, 1886, was a grand day in the church's history, for on that day, the lower portion of the building was dedicated. The Rev. H. A. Cleveland, D. D., was the preacher at the opening service. His text, which was a most suggestive one, was "And it fell not, for it

TABERNACLE M. E. CHURCH, 1909

was founded upon a rock." The service in the afternoon was a remarkable one. General Clinton B. Fisk gave an interesting address, and the Rev. Dr. O. H. Tiffany, pastor of the Spring Garden Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, delivered an able sermon from Psalms 132, 13-17. The dedicatory services were held in the evening, General Fisk being the principal speaker. The proceeds of that day amounted to $3,300. There was a good revival in January and February of 1887, and ninety probationers were received.

The main auditorium of the church was dedicated on Sunday morning, October 16th, 1887. Rev. H. A. Cleveland, D. D., of Philadelphia, delivered the dedicatory sermon, and Presiding Elder Relyea dedicated the church. In the afternoon, the Rev. W. H. Geistweit, pastor of the Linden Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Whitecar and D. M. Mink delivered addresses. At the evening service, the pastor, Dr. Whitecar, Dr. John S. Heisler and W. C. Stockton took part.

On the Monday evening following, the Rev. I. C. Wynn, D. D., of the First Baptist Church, preached the sermon, and on Tuesday evening, the Rev. Marcus A. Brownson, of the First Presbyterian Church, occupied the pulpit.

The cost of the church was $45,000. Its dimensions are ninety-six feet by seventy-six feet. The Sunday school departments have a seating capacity of about eight hundred; the main auditorium, including the gallery, a seating capacity of 1,500.

The Board of Trustees at this time, consisted of Messrs. Walter M. Patton, President, E. A. Smith, James R. Car-

son, B. C. Bingham, H. B. Cheesman, L. H. Street, Robert Freeman, Charles Wolverton and W. Watson. The membership at the close of this pastorate was 620.

In March, 1888, the Rev. John Y. Dobbins, having served three years, was sent by the conference to Trenton, State Street Church, and the Rev. J. Leander Sooy was transferred from State Street Church, Trenton, to Tabernacle.

The next four years was a most properous era in the history of the church. Pastor Sooy was no stranger to the city, having labored at Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church a few years before. On Sunday, April 1st, 1888, he commenced his ministry with the largest congregation in the history of the church, with the exception of Dedication Sunday. The salary was advanced to $1800.

The first Anniversary of the dedication of the new church, and the twenty-eighth Anniversary of the old was held in November, 1888. Rev. Geo. K. Morris, D. D., a former pastor, was the preacher. In the evening, Brother Morris gave a most interesting address, during which he referred to the history of the church, showing its ups and downs. During the course of his remarks, he said: "When I became the pastor of this church, the building was in the sheriff's hands, and it was advertised for sale and the members were very much discouraged. The Presiding Elder told me it was about the toughest appointment in New Jersey, but that did not discourage me, for I felt that it was a most promising field, if the people could only pull through their difficulties and could have a chance. I well remember my first Sunday in Tabernacle. The congregation numbered seventy-five. Remembering

REV. J. L. SOOY

REV. G. K. MORRIS

that churches always have their largest congregation on the first Sunday to hear the new preacher, it was not an encouraging outlook for the future. I gave out the hymn. There was no choir present, and three persons started different tunes. I do not remember who came out best. I had three years of very hard work. The coal was not paid for. The sexton had had no salary for years. The attendance, however, doubled the second Sunday and kept on increasing. About that time, I put my ecclesiastical arm in that of a young man, and induced him to take the position of precentor. That young man was paying his addresses to a young lady at Salem, and I had the pleasure of uniting them in marriage. From that time on, Brother Walter M. Patton has given his best thought and his best efforts to Tabernacle. I am not sure but that they would find "Tabernacle" written upon his heart, but I am sure that he has made his life noble by his efforts to supply the needs of the church. I can not remember all the names inscribed on that roll of honor of the Official Board, but I do think of Brother Willets and also Brother Danenhower. There was Brother James R. Carson, too, who always reminds me of the lead horse, whose thoughts are always in advance, and who generally thinks twice to everybody else's once. Then there was Brother Cheesman. I remember his singing. It seemed to me, when it was thundering, Brother Cheesman could put the blush on the thunder. After awhile, Brother Vogt used to bring in flowers, and he never neglected it one Sunday while I was pastor. There was some trouble in raising money at first, but I remember asking the congregation for six hundred dollars, and in twenty-five minutes eight hundred dollars was promised. This gave confidence to the general public, and the church had no difficulty in securing credit afterwards. I remember preaching one evening upon "Hell"

and a young man who was present went home and told his aunt that that was the first sermon he ever listened to. That led to his conversion, and he began to study and became a missionary, and now Bro. Stevens is doing a good work. Tabernacle Church, in spite of its embarrassments, has been making a record of which they need not be ashamed. But if the record appears to me to be a grand one, who has known it a few years, what must it be to the Angels of God, who have known it for twenty-eight years? But the most sublime moment in the history of Tabernacle was just after the cyclone, when the Board of Trustees (with the knowledge that there was a debt on the old building) said: "Let us build a good church on the old site." I believe that if ever the angels applauded, it was then."

At the second Anniversary of the new building, 1889, the Rev. W. D. Couch, of New York, occupied the pulpit. Eight hundred dollars was raised in the church, and $1,700 in the Sunday School.

Rev. J. L. Sooy was very popular with the young people. His children's band on Friday afternoon was one of the events of the week, and was attended by children of all denominations. The Epworth League was organized during this pastorate—the date of the charter is January 27, 1890—and grew rapidly in numbers and usefulness in the church work.

In the spring of 1890, about sixty members of the church received their letters. Bishop Goodsell and the New Jersey Conference set them off as a separate charge. This was the beginning of the State Street Church, the Rev. C. E. P. Mayhew being the first pastor.

On Monday evening, July 6th, 1890, the fiftieth birthday of Superintendent Walter M. Patton was celebrated in the Sunday School rooms, which were beautifully adorned for the occasion. When Mr. and Mrs. Patton entered the room, the Tabernacle salute was given them, and the Camden Orchestra played the Doxology and "Old Coronation." Rev. J. L. Sooy gave a very felicitous address, saying that he believed in "Honor to whom honor is due." They recognized the great usefulness of Brother Patton in the Church and Sabbath School, where he had labored for so many years. The church had more than once leaned very heavily on Brother Patton. He had been with them when cyclones inside and outside the church had come, and they all felt that our beautiful church was a standing monument to his energy. The Sunday School was represented by Mr. E. A. Smith, who also spoke of the good work of the Superintendent. Rev. Edmund Hewitt, pastor of the Broadway Methodist Episcopal church, bore testimony to the faithfulness of Mr. Patton. He said, "I am glad to hear these addresses. It is thirteen years since I first became acquainted with Brother Patton. I believe my own success has been greater because of my association with him. One reason of his success as Superintendent comes from the fact that when travelling on the cars or on the train, you may find him studying the next Sunday's lesson, and after a hard day's work in the city, you may find him poring over those lessons far into the night, when most of us are asleep. He has given his time, his money, and his powers to the Sunday School. Although he has attained his fiftieth year, he has not grown old. His mind is rich and fertile in ideas. He has lived on the sunny side of life. We hope he may live many more years, and be a blessing to the Sunday School.

Brother John E. Rosselle was the next speaker, and presented Mr. Patton with a beautiful floral piece. The figures upon it told that in 1875, when Mr. Patton was elected Superintendent, the membership of the school was 225, now the figures were 632.

Mr. and Mrs. Patton took their stand near the platform at this point, and everybody present came to offer their congratulations. Mr. Patton's address on this occasion is worth reprinting, and we therefore give it. He said: "I must confess that, when I entered the church to-night, I felt scared, and that feeling did not pass away until I found that I was in the presence of friends. I protested very much against this reception when I first learned of it. I think now that it is worth a great many years of labor to get such a reception. With respect to the figures representing the growth of the Sunday School, I wish you would allow me to take those figures and scatter them where they belong, among the teachers and officers who have worked so nobly by my side. I say to myself tonight, 'Patton, you have got to walk nearer to God.' Eighteen years ago, Jesus called me to himself. I have always loved that old hymn,

"Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God."

I want you all to pray for me, and still to put up with my weakness. If I should live ten years more, and I expect to live that time, I prophesy that the debt on this church will be extinguished. Coming across the ferry today, I remembered the first time I crossed the Delaware, in May, 1850, at ten years of age, when the population of Camden was not more than 10,000. For twenty-four years, I was connected with the Fifth Street Methodist Episcopal Sunday School. In the spring of 1874, Providence di-

rected me to Tabernacle. I thank you for your hearty reception tonight."

During the fourth year of Rev. J. L. Sooy's pastorate, Mr. Walter M. Patton very generously offered one hundred and fifty dollars a month for the year, provided the Sunday school would raise a similar amount, for the reduction of the debt. It was decided to accept the offer. It was during this year that the Gloucester race-track was ruining its thousands, and Pastor Sooy delivered some of the most ringing sermons against this outrage, making the politicians mad. He did splendid service in the Citizen's League and the Law and Order Society.

About this time, Brother L. H. Street, the druggist died, and the church lost a valuable helper, as it did in the death of D. Somers Risley, which occurred a little later.

In February, 1892, Rev. J. L. Sooy and Walter M. Patton, went with an immense delegation of citizens from all parts of the state, to protest against the infamous race-track bills, which William J. Thompson was trying to get through the State Legislature. The State House was densely crowded, and a remarkable demonstration took place. Mr. Sooy was one of a committee of five to draw up resolutions.

In the spring of 1892, Pastor Sooy closed his labors in Camden. The Children's Band, through Mrs. C. M. Doughty, presented him with a gold watch as a mark of their esteem. During the four years, he received into the church a large number, both by letter and on probation, the largest ingathering being 139 on probation during his first year. The splendid ingatherings increased the mem-

bership to 726, at the close of his pastorate. Nearly nine thousand dollars was raised for church debt.

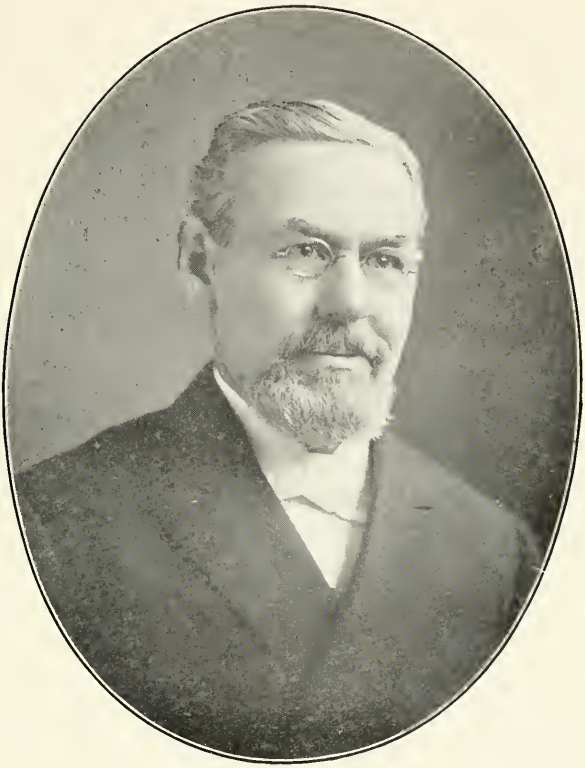
The last Sabbath with Mr. Sooy, brought out an immense audience. In the Sunday School, he was presented with a portrait of Mr. Patton. The farewell sermon was delivered from First Corinthians, 16: 10, "Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear, for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do." Mr. Sooy left the city for Des Moines, Iowa, followed by the love of the entire membership.

The Rev. Wm. P. Davis was the next pastor. He served the church faithfully for two years, and left many friends at the end of his term. About this time, an event occurred which may be recorded here as Mr. Walter M. Patton was the prime mover in the enterprise. There was a great famine in Russia, and Mr. Patton appealed to the Sunday Schools of the city, to take an offering to send flour to the needy people. The offering was taken on Sunday April 3rd, 1892, and the splendid sum of $825.74 was received. The American Line Steamer, "Conemaugh," sailed on Saturday, April 23rd, with the flour for the sufferers.

Prof. VanHart was the chorister at this time, and R. R. Longland, the organist. Rev. W. P. Davis preached his farewell sermon on Sunday evening, March the 11th, 1894. His theme was, "The Church and the Saloon." The membership was 681.

1894

The Conference that spring, by request, sent to the Church one of its old pastors, Rev. Edmund Hewitt, who



REV. W. P. DAVIS, D. D.

had been laboring so successfully at Broadway church, of this city. It was just fourteen years since he left this pastorate, and it was like coming home again. The Tabernacle Junior Epworth League was organized this year.

On Sunday, March 17th, 1895, a service of interesting character took place in the Sunday school. It was to commemorate the one-thousandth Sunday that Mr. Walter M. Patton had served as its Superintendent. Jacob Danenhower and James R. Carson, former superintendents, and Pastor Edmund Hewitt, delivered addresses. Carlton M. Williams brought the greetings of the First Presbyterian Sunday School, and F. W. Ayer, the greetings of the North Baptist School. Mr. Patton replied in a touching address, referring feelingly to those who had recently crossed the river. He also referred to Brother Stevens, laboring in India, and Brother Lewis Heib, who was going to labor in Ceylon.

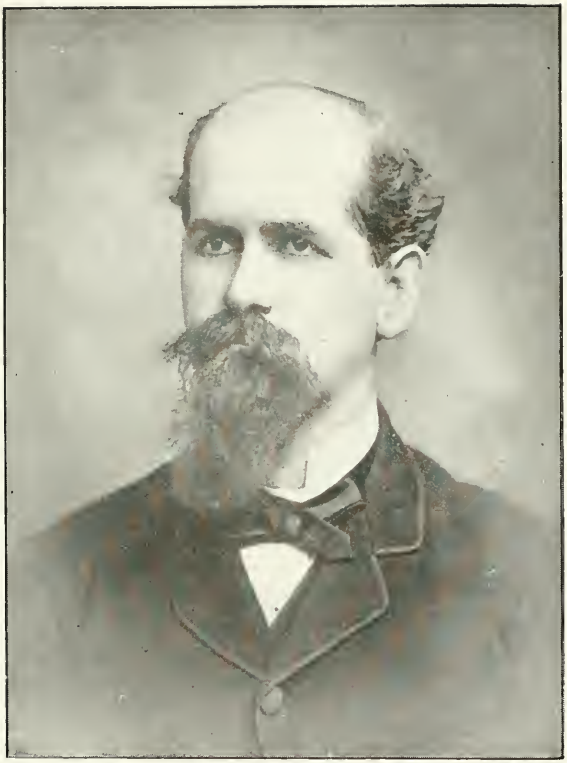
In June, 1895, an improvement fund was started in the church to put in a new organ, and the first instalment was paid in to Mr. Walter W. Cook, the Treasurer.

On Monday evening, November 25th, 1895, the new pipe organ was opened with a great recital by S. Tudor Strang, assisted by the Orpheus quartette. Many other improvements to the church were made. These improvemets, including the grand pipe organ, which cost $4,500, making the alterations in the church for the organ location, painting and decorating, new chandeliers and other furnishings, cost in the neighborhood of ten thousad dollars.

At the beginning of the year 1896, Rev. Thos. Harrison, known as the "Boy Preacher," assisted in Revival

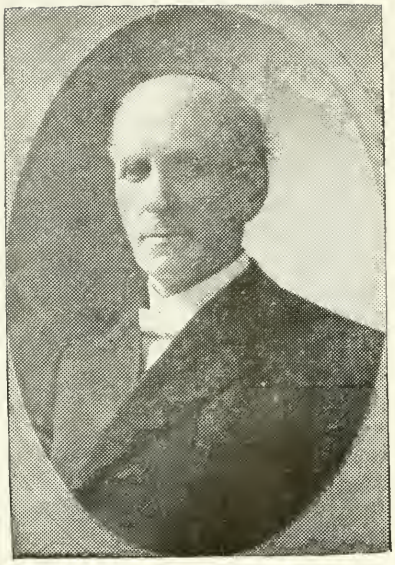
Services, continuing for eight weeks. The singing was in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Loper, the singing evangelists, who had been for some time members of Tabernacle Church. They rendered very efficient service in the Revival. The whole of North Camden was mightily stirred. A great number of people were converted, and one hundred and seventy were received into the church on probation. This year Mr. Patton had to give up his work in Tabernacle because of ill health. Acting upon the advice of his physicians, he removed from Camden, and took up his residence in Wayne, Pa. Farewell services were conducted in the Sunday School on Sunday, June 14th. The speakers were Pastor Hewitt, James R. Carson and Mr. Patton. A gold watch was presented to Mr. Patton, and a diamond brooch to his wife, as tokens of the regard in which they were held. Howard I. Branson became superintendent of the Sunday School, and Mr. Patton held the position of honorary superintendent. Three months after the removal to Wayne, Mrs. Patton died, and her funeral was preached in Tabernacle Church. The Church was filled with the friends of these faithful servants of God. Mr. R. R. Longland, the organist at one time and a very useful member of the church, died in February, 1897. The following month chronicles the death of James R. Carson, who had rendered such valuable service to the church for twenty-seven years. Mr. Carson died in the prime of life, having served the church in almost every capacity. The funeral service was largely attended, and among the speakers were former pastors, S. E. Post and J. S. Heisler, who told of the many virtues of the deceased, as did also Rev. Edmund Hewitt, the pastor. The pastor said, "Brother Carson joined the Tabernacle Church the first day of October, 1865. He has served as class leader, steward, superintendent of the Sun-

REV. JOS. G. REED



JAMES R. CARSON

REV. W. P. C. STRICKLAND



REV. JAMES MOORE

day school and trustee." Mr. Carson was President of the Board of Trustees at the time of his death. The Official Board, led by Mr. Walter M. Patton, gathered around the casket, and sang, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." The funeral was one of the largest ever held in the church.

On March 5th, 1899, Edmund Hewitt having served the full time limit of five years, preached his farewell sermon. His text was: "For here we have no continuing city, we seek one to come." He received four hundred and sixty-seven members into the church during the five years, and when he left, the membership was seven hundred and seventy-five full members.

The next pastor was Rev. James Moore, who served the church faithfully for two years. He was generally considered one of the best preachers of the New Jersey Conference. The Twentieth Century Thank Offerings, taken during Dr. Moore's last year, amounted to $1,000.

1901

Rev. Joseph G. Reed was appointed as pastor, in March, 1901, and was given a reception March 25th. He served the church well, and resigned to go to a lighter appointment. He was presented with a fine piece of statuary, when he left us at the end of two years' service. The membership at this time was 556.

1903

Rev. W. P. C. Strickland was appointed to our church March, 1903. He was an excellent pastor and served the church well for three years. The Ninth Annual Conven-

tion of the Epworth League was held in Tabernacle, April 29th, 1903. Revs. J. L. Sooy and John Y. Dobbins were the principal speakers. The people of Camden were greatly delighted to greet these former pastors. Henry B. Cheesman, the veteran class leader, died December 28th, 1903. He had rendered the church royal service, and was loved by all who knew him.

1904

Walter M. Patton died January 25th, 1904, at Wayne, Pa. The funeral was held in our church Wednesday, January 27th. Rev. J. L. Sooy, Rev. John S. Heisler and others, spoke at his funeral. He was a whole-souled man of God, who dedicated himself and all he possessed to the service of his Lord. He gave in two years, $3,600, toward the church debt, while Rev. J. L. Sooy was pastor, in addition to what he had given previous to that time. He carried out fully John Wesley's motto, "Earn all you can; save all you can, and give all you can."

On March 24th, 1904, a reception was tendered to Mrs. Clara M. Doughty, upon the completion of twenty-five years of service in the primary and kindergarten departments of the Sunday School of our church.

In October, 1904, the Tabernacle Church Bazaar was held in the Railroad Y. M. C. A. Hall, the net proceeds of which were over ten hundred and fifteen dollars. The President of the Bazaar Association was Mr. Wesley H. Dobbins, who with his faithful corps of workers were congratulated on the great success of the enterprise.

On December 1st, the Epworth League held a banquet,

MRS. CLARA M. DOUGHTY
Supt. of Kindergarten for 30 Years.

celebrating the result of a contest that brought in over three hundred new members. The banquet was enjoyed by over four hundred Epworth Leaguers.

Toward the close of Rev. W. P. C. Strickland's term of three years' service, the congregation honored him and his wife by celebrating their Twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary, presenting them a case of silverware.

The membership at the close of Dr. Strickland's pastorate numbered six hundred and nineteen.

In 1906 Rev. J. D. Bills was appointed to Tabernacle M. E. Church upon the unanimous invitation of the Official Board, and was given an enthusiastic welcome at his reception by the whole membership.

At the First Official Board Meeting held April 26, 1906 a committee on Aggressive Evangelism was appointed, which has greatly stimulated the spiritual life of the church. Evangelistic services have been held by this committee in the Lecture Room every Sabbath evening, at the close of the church service, and many have been brought to Christ through these efforts.

The Wesley Brotherhood was organized on May 7th, 1906, with 28 members enrolled, which soon grew to more than one hundred. The organization has since changed its charter, and become a Chapter in the Methodist Brotherhood. Thos. E. Simpson was the first president. The Brotherhood has done good work. They maintain a Sunday morning Men's Meeting; they do personal work in getting men saved, and in a material way, they marked their first year's usefulness by contributing one hundred

and fifty dollars for a trolley partition, making a new room for the Kindergarten Department of the Sunday school.

The Sunday Afternoon Pentecostal and Evangelistic Service was begun June 3rd, 1906. One man professed conversion at the first service, and many have been saved in it since.

The Shoppers' Saturday Night Gospel Mission was organized on June 30th 1906, in one of the class-rooms, and has been a blessing to an average attendance of about a half hundred people, and some have professed conversion.

The year was further noted for the fine course of entertainments, under the auspices of the Epworth League, including Bishop Charles C. McCabe, in his great lecture on "The Bright Side of Life in Libby Prison."

1907

The year 1907 witnessed a good revival, during the month of January. There were many saved, and one hundred and thirty three united with the church.

This year the new Methodist Hymnal was put in, and the old Hymnals were given away. The new books were the greatly appreciated gift of the Ushers Union, who had realized one hundred and seventy-five dollars from a supper and devoted the proceeds to this cause. The first gift was supplemented by one from the Junior Choir and a subscription from the people, providing all the Hymnals necessary.

A "Woman's Thousand Dollar Club" was organized,

with Mrs. R. B. Doughty at its head, to raise money for Church Improvement.

1908

The year 1908 was an eventful year. Building Loan Stock to the amount of $6,000.00 matured; the $12,000.00 mortgage on the church was cut in half, and thirty shares of Building Loan Stock taken, to cover the last of the debt on the church.

The Main Audience Room and Vestibules were re-painted and beautifully decorated, also, a new Choir Gallery provided to accommodate one hundred singers. Two new stained glass windows were put in, in place of temporary wooden structures, thus completing the church edifice. The cost of these improvements was something over $2000. The Women's Club contributed $1,000.00 to the Improvement Fund. The committee in charge of the improvements were E. A. Freeman, S. P. Jones and W. H. Dobbins.

The Tabernacle Church Chorus was formed and adopted Constitution and by-laws, on October 2nd, 1908. The following are the officers: President, E. A. Freeman; Vice-President, B. P. Ackley; Secretaries, Mrs. R. B. Doughty and Mrs. John P. Briggs. The Chorus numbers eighty members. The musical director is Prof. Elwood Crauthamel. Mrs. Garrison is organist.

A beautiful Individual Cup Communion Service, costing one hundred and thirty dollars, was presented on the first Sabbath of November, by the professional men of the church.

1909

The Conference year of 1909 opened with an enthusiastic reception to the Rev. J. D. Bills, upon his return for the fourth year. The reception was held April 7th, and the pastor was presented a gold watch and fob, in recognition of his services and the esteem of the people.

The funeral of Isaac T. Woodrow, an early member and official in the church, and for thirty years the janitor, was held in the church on May 3, 1909. The officials were the pall bearers and the services were largely attended by the members of the church.

The Forty-ninth Anniversary of the corner stone laying of the first building was celebrated in May. Rev. John Krantz, D. D., of New York City, preached the morning sermon, and the pastor preached the Anniversary sermon in the evening. Plans were laid to put the church out of debt as soon as possible, and the motto was adopted, "All debt provided for by the Semi-Centennial." Thirty-six hundred dollars were subscribed during the day, to be paid in before the Fiftieth Anniversary.

The women of the church have organized a "Ten Times Ten Club," with Mrs. C. M. Doughty as President. They will pay in to the Church Treasury, six hundred dollars before the Semi-Centennial, November, 1910—the money to be used for re-furnishing the parsonage.

The pastor has been given a unanimous invitation for the fifth time, and is expected to return for the fifth year.

The church membership at the present time is seven

hundred and sixty-two. There is no surviving charter member. Those now on the church roll who have enjoyed the longest membership are: Jacob Danenhower, who joined by certificate on April 28, 1861; Michael Peterson, joined by certificate Jan. 18th, 1863, and Penrose W. Hirst, who was received from probation, September 4th, 1864. Lewis R. Beckett, one of the earliest members is also living, at an advanced age, and still a member. Mrs. Jane Woodrow, the widow of the faithful sexton is still with us, having spent her whole life in active fellowship with Tabernacle church. Charles S. Wolverton, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, has been an official for many years, and has a well preserved certificate granted to him as a boy by the first Tabernacle Sunday School for faithful attendance. Members now active in church work here are many of them the children of faithful members and officials in the first years of our church's history. The families of James R. Carson, A. B. Mathis, George Hirst, Jonathan High, John M. Hall, John T. Hunter and others are still represented in the official board and membership of the church.

Samuel E. Post, having served Tabernacle as pastor, and later as Presiding Elder of Camden District, has been associated with the church for several years now, by holding his Quarterly Conference relation with the Tabernacle Quarterly Conference. He is now in his 93rd year.

The Sunday school at the present time, numbers over one thousand scholars. It is thoroughly organized, with Prof. Richard B. Doughty as General Superintendent.

The Cradle Roll, Beginners and Primary departments are in charge of Mrs. R. B. Doughty, assisted by sixty-

four "Mothers." These mothers first entered the department with their infant children, and became so closely associated with the work that they have been organized as the "Mothers' Association." The work they do is varied, and through their efforts, the work of this whole department is self-supporting. The Mothers' Association, like many other important organizations, had a small beginning, and was the result of an emergency. A young mother, who had been a Sunday school girl, returned to the school with her infant child. One day she brought her baby to the door of the Infant department and said, "Where am I to go, they don't want this baby upstairs?" Mrs. Doughty took both the mother and infant into her department, and at once conceived the idea of extending an invitation to all the mothers of the church, to bring their babies into the Kindergarten department. Mrs. Doughty is also a pioneer in the Cradle Roll work. The Tabernacle Cradle Roll was the first in Methodism, and there is only one other claimant to first honors in any church in the history of Cradle Roll work.

Mrs. Doughty first began her work with the infants of Tabernacle Sunday school thirty years ago, as Miss Clara M. Branson. She has developed this department of the school, until it now numbers about 400 children, thoroughly organized and graded, and self-supporting. Ralston Hirst is chorister in this department.

The Junior department is in charge of Mrs. John P. Briggs, formerly Miss Maggie A. Stiles, a Tabernacle girl herself. She is an efficient worker in many lines of church enterprise. With her fifteen helpers and splendidly organized department, the most modern methods and up-to-date apparatus, the Junior department is one of the best.

The Intermediate department is in charge of Mrs. Edwin Robinson, formerly Miss Helen Jeffers, is also fully abreast of the times and splendidly managed. Mrs. Robinson has been associated with the church as a leader in young people' work for a number of years.

All these departments are located on the first floor of the building.

The Senior and Adult departments in charge of Mrs. Harry P. Sayford and Colonel H. M. Avis, respectively, hold their sessions in the Main Auditorium of the church. Mrs. Sayford is prominent in educational circles, and Colonel Avis has been a Sunday school enthusiast all his life. Under the able direction of the general superintendent, these leaders, assisted by an able corps of officiers and teachers, these departments are doing the most advanced Sunday school work.

So this Sunday school, which started fifty years ago as an itinerant outdoor mission enterprise, under the willows which grew on the banks of the Delaware, has become one of the largest, best-equipped, thoroughly organized, and most widely known schools in Methodism.

The following have filled the position of Sunday school superintendents: Hampton Williams, 1 year; Jacob Danenhower, 8 years; Barkley C. Bingham, 2 years; James R. Carson, 2 years; Walter M. Patton 24 years; Howard I. Branson. 2 years; Charles S. Wolverton, 3 years; Charles Bowden, 2 years; Richard B. Doughty, 5 years.

Superintendents of the Infants' school and Kindergarten departments: Mrs. Carter, 1860-1868; Mrs. Ella S.

Parsons, 1868-1879; Mrs. Clara M. Doughty, 1879-1909. Mrs. Doughty has served the Sunday school full thirty years, and we are proud of her record. The best Kindergarten teacher in the New Jersey Conference, we believe.

A number of people have gone out from Tabernacle to do missionary work and to preach the gospel, and many formerly connected with the church and Sunday school are filling important places in different parts of the world. There is room for only a few names in this short history.

Among the present members of the New Jersey Conference are three who received their exhorters licenses while connected with Tabernacle a number of years ago, W. A. Lilley, and J. Richards Thompson during the pastorate of Rev. S. E. Post and J. G. Edwards during the pastorate of Edmund Hewitt (first time). These men also served this church in other official capacities besides that of exhorter: J. R. Thompson and W. A. Lilly as stewards, and J. G. Edwards as musical director for four years.

Other New Jersey Conference preachers came into the work at Tabernacle: John Goorley, his father an honored official, was converted during the pastorate of J. Y. Dobbins, made an exhorter 1887, local preacher 1888. E. A. Wells converted during pastorate of J. L. Sooy, made an exhorter in 1892, local preacher 1894. Rev. H. L. Denlinger, also was converted and went into the work of the ministry from this church. William Grum grew up in Tabernacle church was licensed to preach under the pastorate of Dr. James Moore, his grandfather, Jonathan High was one of the first class leaders of this church, and his mother was converted at the Tabernacle altar.

Others not connected with New Jersey Conference but

went into the work from Tabernacle are: S. T. Weaver, converted under J. S. Heisler, licensed to exhort under J. L. Sooy, granted local preachers under W. P. Davis, now member of the Des Moines Conference. Embury Price Bryan now a preacher in the Philadelphia Conference received both exhorter's and local preacher's license from this church during pastorate of James Moore.

William Curlis Asay now pastor of Normal City M. E. Church, Muncie, Indiana, and a member of the North Indiana Conference was a member of Tabernacle for fifteen years and the first president of the local ushers union, and also first president of the City Ushers Union. James Hoffman Batten now a prominent preacher and lecturer was another Tabernacle boy. Joseph A. Jeffers now a member of the Baltimore Conference, also received his license as exhortor and local preacher at Tabernacle.

Reference has been made in this history to two other Tabernacle boys, William H. Stevens for many years and still a successful missionary in India, and Louis Heib now at Burlington Vt., and state secretary of the Y. M. C. A.

Several Tabernacle men are doing supply work as pastors of churches, including Franklin Haley, and John A. Naylor both successful preachers of the Gospel.

At the present time two young men of this church are in college preparing for the gospel ministry: Albert G. Judd, at Dickinson, and Charles S. Fees, at Syracuse University.

Tabernacle has always been a Class-meeting church. Among the records of the church may be found the names

of many men who have served the organization as Class leaders, including the following:—

George Hume, leader of the Class from which the society grew. Henry B. Cheesman, appointed at the first Quarterly Conference. Rev. Riley Barrett, James Beck, Andrew D. Oothout, Jacob Danenhower, George Deakyne, Michael Peterson, Thomas R. Allen, Jonathan High, P. B. Patterson.

At the end of the first decade there were seven Class meetings and the above leaders had served.

The number of classes were increased during the year 1870 to fourteen and the following were appointed: James R. Carson, Wiliam Cole, R. T. Lore, Virgil Willetts, J. W. Core, J. D. Jones, Barclay C. Bingham.

The Class leaders collected the pastor's salary in those days.

The number of Classes were soon reduced to about eight. The names following were appointed after 1870, and the list is probably incomplete: William P. Brewin, Daniel Rickerds, Charles Bowden, William A. Lilley, John J. Pierson, Theo. Corson, Caleb Ross, Walter M. Patton, George DeMaris, John W. McCormick, Joshua Tushingham, John T. Stewart, Jos. G. Edwards, Edward Evans, John H. Zipler, Samuel H. Fish, John Crowley, William Allston, William E. Townsend, Harry Loper, Mark L. C. Wilde, Joseph D. Johnson, William P. Partenheimer, Miss Helen Jeffers, Mrs. Sallie Bowden, Issac J. Rhodes, Archie C. Harris, Allen Sinclair, Fred. Beck, Franklin Haley, John C.

W.H.Stowe. N.S.Goff. H.C.Garrison,M.D. Fred.Beck. E.Y.Dobbins. B.P.Ackley. Jacob Danenhower
H.A.Hewett. A.C.Harris. F.S.Warren. John Rhoads. J.A.Naylor. W.A.Stone. John Albers.
B.N.Sheppard.I.J.Rhodes.T.E.Simpson.J.H.Hewett. J.C.Kelly. H.F.Cline. H.F.Owens. Henry C.Thomas.
Theo.Peacock. Mrs.M.C.Judd.
John H. Stiles. Wesley H. Dobbins. James D. Bills. Walter W. Cook. Richard B. Doughty.

OFFICIAL BOARD OF TABERNACLE M. E. CHURCH, 1909

Kelley, John H. Robinson, Howard F. Cline, and John A. Robins.

The Official Board of the Tabernacle M. E. Church, 1909:

Local Preachers:—John A. Naylor, 332 N. 9th St.; I. J. Rhodes, 537 Bailey St.; Theo. Peacock, 932 N. 5th St.; Harry Loper, Collingswood, N. J.; Thomas Maslin, Perkasie, Pa.; Albert Judd, Carlisle, Pa.; Franklin Haley, 536 Erie St.

Exhorters:—Thos. E. Simpson, 613 State St.; James S. Pratt, 513 Vine St.; Edwin Robinson, 314 Elm St.

Class Leaders:—Allan Sinclair, 627 State St.; Fred. Beck, 511 Vine St.; J. C. Kelly, 825 N. 5th St.; Franklin Haley, 536 Erie St.; J. H. Robinson, 917 Howard St.; Howard F. Cline, 620 N. 7th St.; John A. Robins, 422 Pearl St.; Rev. J. D. Bills.

Trustees:—W. H. Dobbins, 516 N. 4th St.; E. A. Freeman, 410 N. 4th St.; S. P. Jones, 328 Cooper St.; H. C. Garrison, 428 N. 5th St.; R. B. Doughty, 413 Elm St.; W. W. Cook, 420 Pearl St.; B. P. Ackley, 216 Vine St.; Jas. H. Hewitt, 500 State St.; C. S. Wolverton, 601 State St.

Stewards:—N. S. Goff, Linden St.; Lewis H. Lake, 702 Linden St.; John H. Stiles, 604 N. 4th St.; Edwin A. Stone, 433 Carteret St.; John Rhoads, 610 N. 4th.; Henry C. Thomas, 533 N. 7th St.; F. S. Warren, 527 Penn St.; Robt. J. Hill, 314 Vine St.; Alfred Taylor, 538 Elm St.; J. A. Carson, 3rd and Birch Sts.; North Davis, 822 N. 4th St.; W. H. Stowe, 624 State St.; Harry R. Curtis, 532 Vine St.; Jos. D. Johnson, 703 N. 2nd St.; W. P. Partenheimer, 631 State St.; Hazlet F. Owens, 309 Cole St.; Edgar Y. Dob-

bins, 312 York St.; Chas. F. Heil, 59 York St.; Harry A. Hewitt, 500 State St.; John W. Albers, 322 Elm St.

President of the Epworth League:—Boyd N. Sheppard, 509 Vine St.

Superintendent of Junior League:—Mrs. M. C. Judd, 522 Elm St.

President Ladies' Aid:—Mrs. R. B. Doughty.

The following preachers have served Tabernacle church: Rev. W. S. Barnart, 1 year, 1861; Rev. Levi Larew, 2 years, 1862-63; Rev. J. H. Stockton, 2 years, 1864-65; Rev. James White, 1 year 1866; Rev. John W. Hickman, 3 years, 1867-68-69; Rev. Samuel E. Post, 3 years, 1870-71-72; Rev. C. K. Fleming, 1 year, 1873; Rev. George K. Morris, 3 years, 1874-75-76; Rev. Edmund Hewitt, 3 years 1877-78-79; Rev. G. S. Sykes, 2 years, 1880-81; John S. Heisler, 3 years, 1882-83-84; Rev. John Y. Dobbins, 3 years, 1885-86-87; Rev. J. Leander Sooy, 4 years, 1888-89-90-91; Rev. Wm. P. Davis, 2 years, 1892-93; Rev. Edmund Hewitt, 5 years, 1894, 95-96-97-98; Rev. James Moore, 2 years, 1899- 1900; Rev. Jos. G. Reed, 2 years, 1901-02; Rev. W. P. C. Strickland, 3 years, 1903-04-05; Rev. James D. Bills, 4 years, 1906-07-08-09.

Associated with the pastor at the present time are, Rev. S. E. Post, and Rev. G. H. Tullis, members of the Tabernacle Quarterly Conference.

REV. J. D. BILLS

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH, 1860

HISTORY OF THE

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

In the year 1855 Mr. Wm. Hammond, a member of the Mariner's Bethel, Philadelphia, moved to Stockton, now South Camden. In the following year he began holding a Sunday school in his home receiving help from some of his neighbors. A deep interest was aroused and it was not long before a flourishing school was firmly established.

The list of officers and teachers and scholars in the school is still extant. The superintendent was Samuel Duval and the following band of teachers most ably supported him; Bible class, Wm. Duval; Testament class, John Dobbins, the father of the Rev. John Y. Dobbins, now a member of the New Jersey Conference, who himself was a scholar in his father's class; Spelling and Reading class, Henry Cattell; Nathan Hammond, Nancy Powell, Emma Moore, A. Church and Elizabeth Dobbins were also teachers.

It was not long before the neccessity was felt for the further development of the work, and preaching services were begun in the various homes under the leadership of the Rev. Samuel Dixon, a local preacher of the Fifth

Street M. E. Church (now Union) assisted by Wm. Hurst a member of the same church.

In favorable weather meetings were held in Captain John Mickle's woods. Later on the use of the public school building was secured in which to hold the services, it was not long before a class of twenty-four members was formed, and the prospects for a successful work seemed extremely hopeful

This devoted little band longed for a church home and after careful consideration they thought they saw their way clear to build.

Fearing lest they might be unable to carry the project through successfully, they made application to Fifth Street Church to be attached to them as a Mission and their request was granted.

The Rev. John Hickman was at that time pastor of Union Church and almost immediately a building committee of seven members was appointed, their names were as follows: W. Rooms, Wm. Hammond, John Dobbins, Thos. Jones, J. S. Bundick, J. Matlock, and the Rev. H. M. Brown, this committee was appointed in 1859 and shortly afterwards, largely through the instrumentality of Wm. Hammond aided by his brother-in- law W. B. Rooms, a church edifice was erected on Filmore street one block west of Broadway, known as Filmore street M. E. Church. The contract for the building was given to Clayton Peacock, and the building was dedicated in 1860.

An old record shows that the foundation stone was laid by the Rev. H. M. Brown, at that time pastor of Union

REV. WM. HAMMOND

SAMUEL S. LEHMAN

Church, assisted by the Rev. Samuel W. Thomas of the Philadelphia Conference, the Presiding Elder of the district the Rev. George F. Brown, being present at the services.

Union church not being willing to assume the debt of the new and struggling society, it is extremely doubtful if the church organization could have been continued had it not been for the unsparing liberality of Wm. Hammond, who also assisted greatly in the furnishing of the church, as well as bearing a large share of the current expenses.

The leading members of the church at this time were, Wm. Hammond, John Dobbins, Captain Jones, Jesse Perkins, Bro. Dusen, Samuel Duval, Robert Shuttleworth, Nancy Powell, Samuel Lehman, Jonas Mellor and John J. Smith.

Trinity, though small in many respects, has never been lacking in blessed seasons of spiritual power and many are the souls that have been born for God within its walls, and have gone out to bless the world in other localities beyond South Camden.

It was on this sacred ground that the Rev. John Y. Dobbins began his Christian life and his work for God; and after his graduation from college he became pastor of the church.

During his pastorate he desired to have an organ placed in the church, and it is scarcely possible at this day of elaborate musical services to conceive the opposition and amazement with which this proposition was received by some of the official members of the young organization, they thought that an organ was quite a fit furnishing for a hall or a saloon, but not for a church.

However after much opposition and the exercise of great tact and judgment, an organ was secured and placed in the church.

It was during the administration of the Rev. George S. Meseroll that the mortgage on the Fillmore street property was cleared off and burnt amid great rejoicings.

But the years were rolling on, and the young society had been gaining new blood and much strength and courage; for nearly thirty years they had been carrying on their work, and the feeling arose that they ought to have a new church edifice, more modern and commodious.

During the administration of the Rev. James E. Diverty, now of the Phladelphia Conference, the question of a new church edifice came prominently to the fore, was earnestly discussed and some funds raised towards carrying out the project, a site was procured and plans actually prepared for a new building which was to be erected at the N. W. corner of Broadway and Van Hook street. This project however through unforeseen difficulties had to be abandoned.

In 1889 the Rev. W. S. Ludlow was sent to the charge and again the advisability of building a new church was discussed, and this time with better success.

During the ministry of the Rev. John L. Souder, who came between the Rev. J. E. Diverty and the Rev. W. S. Ludlow, the site now occupied by the present church had been secured.

At the first quarterly conference after the arrival of

REV. GEO. E. ARCHER

THEO. DAVIS J. F. ROORK GEO. DERHAM DR. R. M. SMITH
JOHN GRAY WALTER WALKER C. E. WEEKS JULIAN ANDERSON REV. CHAS MORSE
REV. CHAS. BINGLEY REV. GEO. E. ARCHER JOSEPH HOPKINS JOSEPH CLINE

TRINITY OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH, 1909.

Bro. Ludlow a committee on plans was appointed, and later on the same men were appointed a building committee, their names were as follows: John Dobbins, James O. Smith, J. Kennedy, George W. LeConey, W. S. Ludlow, R. H. Comey, B. E. Mellor and J. Applegate.

Thus the old Fillmore street church was sold and in 1889 the present commodious edifice, known as Trinity M. E. Church was erected on Broadway and dedicated by Bishop Foss to the worship of Almighty God.

During the last twenty years the work has progressed with varying success. Great hopes were entertained at the opening of the New York Ship Building Yard, that this neighborhood would speedily develop.

While these hopes have not been altogether realized, great good has been accomplished and many souls have been led out of darkness into light.

Trinity Church still stands with open doors, and with many godly souls ready and willing to lift up the fallen and guide the erring.

For fifty years these people have stood at the South end of Camden holding up the standard of Jesus Christ, this year they celebrate their Jubilee and start on the work of a new half century with hearts full of hope.

HISTORY OF THE

Eighth Street Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

In 1861, when the men of this city were hearing and heeding the call of the Immortal Lincoln to a service meaning life or death, a small but heroic company heard the voice of another and mightier leader, above the din and tumult of strife and war; and this company organized a Sunday School Society that culminated in the organization of Eighth Street M. E. Church.

The Sunday School of this little Society was held in a butcher shop in the building now used for a dwelling. The present number being 748 Mt. Vernon street. This was owned by John Paschal, then transferred by sale to Joseph Hofflinger, whose daughter, Mrs. Eliza Robinson, is still with us, and one of the oldest members of the present church society. Mr. John Long was elected superintendent of the school. In his hands it prospered. A sufficient number of children were gathered to warrant the organizing of a school and the scattering families supplied chairs, Bibles, singing books, etc., for the regular sessions. This school outgrew its first meeting-place, and was then transferred to a frame house facing Walnut street and adjoining the present church.

In 1862 Rev. Robert S. Harris, pastor of Broadway M. E. Church, organized a Class of the following persons: John Long, Benjamin Long, Noah Sheldon, Philip B. Patterson, and "Mother" Carson. Mr. John Long was appointed Class Leader.

The Sunday School continued its work and the Sunday School Association, composed of several denominations, built a frame structure, 20x30 feet, located at the corner of Eighth and Walnut streets, on the site now occupied by the present brick building.

In 1863, Rev. G. H. Tullis was appointed as pastor of Filmore Street (now Trinity M. E. Church) Newton, (now Collingswood) and Eighth Street.

The Sunday School Association ceased to exist, and the frame building, previously mentioned, fell into the hands of the Methodists for use. Then Sunday School, Class Meeting and preaching services were regularly held. Bro. Tullis organized the church. A number were received by certificate from other churches, conversions took place continuously until the church became known as "Little Heaven."

Pastor Tullis announced, one Sunday, that on a given date there would be an election of Trustees. "Mother" Carson questioned the wisdom of such action, giving as her reason, "they had no property, why a Board of Trustees"? Bro. Tullis replied by saying they did have property: a Bible and a hymn book, which needed caring for." The wisdom of electing a board of Trustees was soon demonstrated. A few of the members of the church were members of the defunct Sunday School Association.

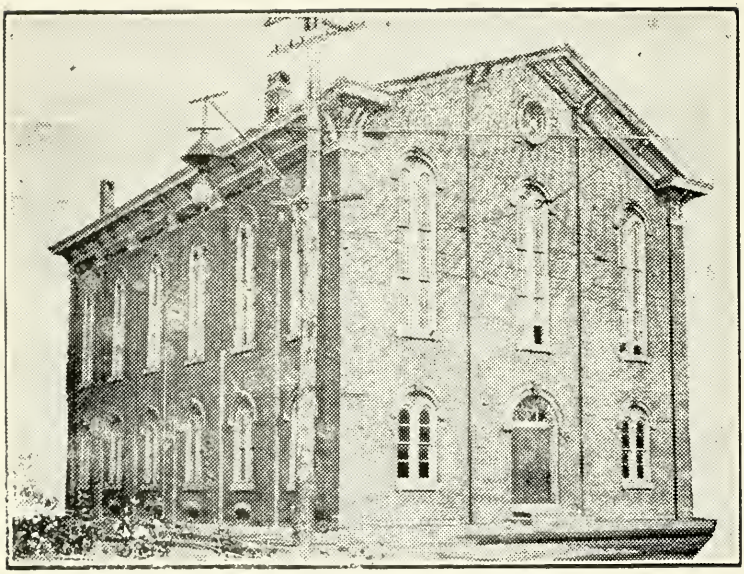
The Trustees advised that the church purchase the building they were using and due notice thereof was given for a stated period.

Then Rev. G. H. Tullis bought the building and plot of ground for the sum of $1.00, and transferred it to the Board of Trustees, whose names appear on the deed as follows: Noah Sheldon, President; John Long, Benjamin Long, Philip Patterson, Isaac Bowman. The church was duly incorporated and named Tullis Methodist Episcopal Church. Bro. Tullis served the church 1863-4, and was succeeded by Rev. David McCurdy.

The period intervening between 1865 and 1868 the church was in Camden City Mission Society.

November 16, 1868, Jefferson Lewis, Presiding Elder, Tullis M. E. Church was made a distinct pastoral charge. James Fetters and Philip Patterson were chosen Class Leaders. Philip Patterson was made Sunday School Superintendent. William Wiatt, John Jefferies, John Pettit acted as stewards until Annual Conference. Then Rev. Jacob H. Nichols was appointed as pastor with a membership of thirty-three and two probationers. The Trustees were elected to the number of nine. The debt on the chapel for improvements was $400; the Sunday school numbered 112 scholars, with 26 officers and teachers.

Thus was the Tullis M. E. Church started on its career of usefulness. The pastorate of the Rev. Jacob H. Nichols continued to 1869. He in turn was succeeded by Rev. John I. Morrell, 1869-1870; Rev. James White, 1870-71; Rev. Jacob T. Price, 1871-73. Rev. William Stockton was appointed pastor in 1873.



EIGHTH STREET M. E. CHURCH, 1875.

The need of a new church was apparent, and September 6th, 1873, Brother Stockton placed a tent on vacant lots near by and opened a city camp meeting. Services were very successful—and keeping ever in mind the needs of the people he spoke of the new enterprise and reported $305.84 received in cash and subscriptions. The work of pulling down the structure was commenced. The basement portion of the new church was built up to the joist of second floor.

March, 1875, Rev. J. R. Westwood was appointed by the Conference in session at New Brunswick, N. J. He found the congregation worshipping in a portion of the old structure. The new building was open and exposed to the weather and encumbered with $1,500 debt. It was decided to roof and finish the basement, using the material of the old frame building as far as practical. Work was begun on the finishing of the basement, and October 19th, the first prayer meeting was held in the finished Class room, fourteen persons being present.

On Sunday, October 31, 1875, the basement was dedicated to the service of Almighty God by Rev. Jacob T. Price. Rev. C. R. Hartranft preached in the morning. Rev. A. Atwood, Philadelphia Conference, 1.30 P. M., and Rev. J. W. Hickman, 7 P. M., there being large congregations throughout the day. The total indebtedness was $2,419.98. The amount raised at the dedication was $747.70. The remaining indebtedness was $1672.28. Not only was the church blessed financially but also spiritually, under the ministry of Bro. Westwood. Hence at the closing of the third year, he reported 350 converted to God and received on probation, 153 received in full connection.

Rev. Willis Reeves was appointed pastor in 1878, to succeed Bro. J. R. Westwood. He was abundant in labors. It was during his pastorate that the upper part of the church was finished. He enlisted the people to work for this enterprise by taking the plan of selling the bricks needed to complete the work of church construction at ten cents per brick. The congregations were large and enthusiastic and were jubilant over the much needed place of worship. His pastorate continued until 1881.

Rev. G. H. Tullis was again appointed pastor, Eighth Street becoming an independent charge and Bro. Tullis gave experience and personality which added greatly to the charge.

Rev. J. H Payran succeeded Bro. Tullis. and served the church until March, 1886.

Then followed the pastorates of Rev. William Walton. Jesse Stiles. H. R. Cheeseman. Harry White. J. E. Sawn, W. S. Mitchell, James Burns, Steadman Applegate, D. E. Clair, the present pastor.

Under each of these pastors added improvements have been made to church property, indebtedness paid—revivals occurred, until to-day. the church property is conservatively estimated at $20,000, with a very convenient and well-located parsonage, on Walnut street with but $3,000 against church and parsonage clear of debt.

Three young men have gone out from this church to preach the Gospel: Rev. Hibbard Howell, to Philadelphia Conference; Rev. George R. Middleton, a very promising young man taking some of the best appointments in New

J. S. Jackson. G. H. Corson. H. S. Corson. R. S. Hickman. E. R. Wright
Wm. Thompson. Wm. Delamater. C. D. Fisher. W. R. Ripley. F. Green.
Rev. D. E. Clair. B. S. Crammer.

EIGHTH STREET OFICIAL BOARD, 1909

REV. DANIEL E. CLAIR

Jersey Conference, and died at Atlantic Highlands, May 2, 1908; Rev. Jos. Simpson, also a member of the New Jersey Conference, and now stationed at Manahawkin.

Notable among the men who have wrought so faithfully and well in the Sunday School are Philip Patterson, John Carwell, Thornton Sayers, Elijah C. Smith, William Kaighn, John Marshall and William D. Delemater, the present superintendent.

The Official Board of the Tullis M. E. Church (now known as Eighth Street) have been composed of earnest sacrificing men through all the passing years and the Elishas have caught the spirit of the Elijahs and at the present the men in the control of the church interests are "worthy sons of these noble sires."

The Ladies' Aid of the church comes in for no small glory. But for their untiring, heroic efforts the comfortable, up-to-date parsonage would not have been free of debt, and in such excellent state of repair. These elect ladies with the spirit of a "Deborah" placed the parsonage in the building loan and patiently and perseveringly financed the matter until the debt and mortgage was wiped out. Another right arm of strength is the Ushers' Union, numbering fifty men, strong and ready to assume any burden, financial, social or spiritual. This society has been a great help to the church.

To-day the church numbers 300 members. The church building, equipped for present day needs, and with the growing neighborhood, has a bright outlook for the future.

HISTORY OF THE

Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

On Thursday, March 29, 1866. the Centenary M. E. Church was organized in Andrews' Hall, N. W. Corner of Fourth and Market streets, by a small band of persons, 45 of whom had been members of the Mother Church of Methodism of this city. Mr. Joshua Peacock, Secretary.

The church was formally organized under the superintendence of the Presiding Elder, J. B. Dobbins. By an election the following composed the first Board of Trustees: Benjamin H. Browning, Wm. M. Barlow, Ralph Lee, Jos. C. De La Cour, Nathan T. Mulliner, Henry F. Hunt, M. D., Thomas Cochran. These were legally constituted by certificate of corporation, dated May 30, 1866, a corporate body under the name of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church. of Camden, New Jersey. The first pastor, the Rev. Henry Baker, served the church only one year with pronounced success and great acceptability.

Chas. Sloan, Chas. Cox and Joshua Peacock were appointed Class Leaders.

Chas. Sloan, Jos. De La Cour, H. F. Hunt, M. D., Henry

Hollinshed and William M. Barlow were selected as the first Board of Stewards on May 2, 1866.

The first public service was held in Odd Fellows Hall, now known as Morgan's Hall, S. E. Cor. Fourth and Market streets, on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1866. At this service the pastor announced the 847th Hymn, read the 1st chapter of John as a Scripture lesson, and preached from the text, Psalm 46: 1. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

At the evening service Rev. Henry Baker announced the 27th Hymn and preached from the text, Mark 14: 8: "She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying."

The Sunday School was organized on the following Sunday, with Joshua Peacock, Superintendent; Charles Sloan, Assistant Superintendent; Wm. D. Peacock, Secretary; Charles Cox, Treasurer; Joseph Chattam, Librarian; Edward G. Stewart, Assistant.

Sabbath services were held in Morgan's Hall until the erection of the chapel, except for a short time while the Hall was being repaired, when the services were held in the Court House. The social meetings being held in Andrews' Hall.

Encouraged by the success of the new enterprise, the organization decided to purchase a lot on which to erect a permanent church home. After looking at several sites, the Trustees selected the lots at the S. W. Corner of Fifth and Cooper streets, which were purchased for the sum of $9,500. On March 18, 1867, the Board of Trustees passed

the following resolution: "Ordered that we proceed immediately to the erection of a chapel; that John Frazer of Philadelphia, be selected as architect; and that Benj. H. Browning and Wm. M. Barlow be appointed a Committee on Plans and Specifications."

On May 6, 1867, a contract was awarded to Williams & McNichol for the erection of the chapel for the sum of $22,250. On Tuesday, July 9, 1867, the corner stone was laid by Bishop Matthew Simpson, and contained the Philadelphia North American, West Jersey Press, Camden Democrat, History of church, list of the Officials and members of the church, specimens of coins: colonial continental and of the present up to 1867; list of members of the Choir, Sabbath School Scholars and Teachers, and the Methodist Church Discipline and Hymn Book, Bible and photograph of Bishop Simpson.

On October 11th, 1868, the Chapel was dedicated by Bishop Janes. At the dedication services a subscription of $6,150 was raised, leaving an indebtedness of $20,000, which was paid off in 1887.

The dedication of the Chapel took place on Sabbath, October 11th, 1868. Service 10.30 A. M. Rev. Bishop Janes preached the sermon and dedicated the chapel.

Order of service: 1, Anthem. 2, Exhortation. 3, Hymn No. 48:

Infinite God to thee we raise
Our hearts in solemn songs of praise;
By all thy works on earth adored,
We worship thee, the common Lord;
The everlasting Father own,
And bow our souls before thy throne.

CENTENARY M. E. CHURCH, 1868.

Thee all the choir of angels sings
The Lord of hosts, the King of kings;
Cherubs proclaim thy praise aloud,
And seraphs shout the triune God;
And holy, holy, holy cry,
Thy glory fills both earth and sky.

On a Saturday evening in the latter part of 1878, at a very impressive prayer service in the home of one of the Trustees, it was decided to make an effort to raise the entire church debt the following day. The day proved to be very stormy and although the morning congregation numbered but ninety-six and the evening, sixty-nine, yet subscriptions covering the entire $20,000 were secured, most of them being paid during the ensuing year.

Although as early as 1883 there was some discussion about the erection of a church building, yet no decisive steps were taken until the year 1891. On March 2 of this year, the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, the pastor, Rev. A. B. Richardson, in an act of faith, lifted the first spadeful of earth for the erection of the church. By his arduous efforts in securing subscriptions for the new enterprise he was the moving spirit in bringing about the erection of the new edifice. Benjamin F. Archer, President of the Board of Trustees, and of the Building Committee, Wilbur F. Rose, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Horace M. Sharp, Treasurer, were indefatigable in the aid which they gave the pastor in pushing forward the church enterprise. In July, 1891. committees were appointed, the plans of the architect, Frank R. Watson, were accepted, and the contract awarded to A. H. Williams' Sons. The corner stone was laid April 20, 1892, by Bishop Foss, and the Church dedicated on September 24th, 1893. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. S. F. Upham, D. D., who took for his

text the passage, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." His discourse was listened to with rapt attention by the large congregation present. At its conclusion, Mr. Benjamin F. Archer, President of the Board of Trustees, read the following financial report:—

Cost of Church, complete.....	$70,000.00
Paid on account	31,084.00
Assets, ...	6,051.17
Balance to be raised, ...	32,164.50

After subscriptions amounting to $8,500 were taken, the dedicatory service was conducted by Bishop Foss, and the benediction pronounced by Rev. A. K. Street.

In the evening prayer by Rev. S. F. Upham, D. D. Sermon by Rev. J. A. P. Chapman, D. D.

Description of the church:—This large and imposing church structure, which is one of the prettiest sanctuaries in New Jersey, had been in course of construction since April, 1892. The church occupies one of the prettiest sites in the city, in the central section of the finest residence portion of the city. It faces on Cooper street, having a frontage of 75 feet and a depth of 126 feet on Fifth street, not including the old chapel, which extends 46 feet, and joins the new church structure. It is built of Trenton stone in the Gothic style of architecture and finished with tower surmounted by prettily designed pinnacles, giving a very artistic and imposing appearance. The main auditorium, is amphitheatre in style and is finished in quartered oak, with a semi-circular arrangement of seats, having a seating capacity of about 750. The ceiling is open work

gidering, pulpit desk, choir loft, directly in the rear of pulpit platform, are finished in oak. The windows are of cathedral glass, the building is fitted for both electricity and gas; there are over 200 lamps—gas and electric—in the main auditorium alone. The doors in front are set in deep recesses, and open into a spacious vestibule on Cooper street. The pipe organ in the rear of the choir loft has two key boards, one opening in the main auditorium, the other in the chapel or Sabbath School room. The chapel is used for departments, Sabbath School, lectures, entertainments, and for class rooms, neatly arranged on the second floor—all combined have a seating capacity for about 700. There is a ladies parlor, and the basement is equipped with dining room and kitchen with all conveniences, with seating capacity for about two hundred persons.

The Memorial windows in the new structure are: W. F. Rose, in membory of his daughter, Mary Caroline Rose; James G. Thayer, in memory of Mrs. Laura C. Browning Melony; Mrs. Eliza Monroe, in memory of her husband, Samuel Y. Monroe, D. D.; handsome window in the N. E. corner by Mrs. Elizabeth C. Bender; James G. Thayer, in memory of his wife, Anzonetta T. Browning Thayer.

Services in connection with the dedication were held during the entire week. Several of the former pastors and pastors of the local churches assisting in them.

Monday evening—Prayer by Rev. Edmund Hewitt, of Broadway Church. Sermon by Rev. Henry Baker, D. D. Closing Prayer by Rev. Arthur Spooner, of First Presbyterian Church.

Tuesday evening—Prayer by Rev. Albert G. Lawson, D.

D., of North Baptist Church. Sermon by Rev. Wm. V. Kelly, D. D. Prayer by Rev. Jacob B. Graw, of First M. E. Church.

Wednesday evening—Prayer by Rev. John S. Heisler, of Central Church, Bridgeton. Sermon by Rev. John Y. Dobbins, D. D. Closing prayer by Rev. W. E. Needham, of Trinity Church.

Thursday evening—Prayer by Rev. John W. Lyell, of First Baptist Church. Sermon by Rev. John E. Adams. Closing prayer by Rev. A. B. Richardson.

Friday evening—General Church Social, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid of Centenary Church, with refreshments.

Board of Trustees—Benjamin F. Archer, President; Horace M. Sharp, Treasurer; John Campbell, Jr., Geo. A. Frey, Secretary; William Bleakley, John Turner, Elwood Prickitt, D. G. Langendorf, Chas. W. Munger.

Building Committee—Benjamin F. Archer, Benjamin H. Browning, John Campbell, Jr., William Bleakley, Wm. T. Bailey, John Turner, Elwood Prickett, John T. Seymour, D. G. Langendorf.

Finance Committee—Wilbur F. Rose, Pres.; Horace M. Sharp, Treas.

Dedication Committee—W. F. Rose, Chairman; G. A. Frey, Sec'y; G. Gerry White, John Turner, Christian Schrack, Horace M. Sharp, James Develin, William Bleakley, Richard C. Mason, Organist.

CENTENARY M. E. CHURCH, 1909.

Board of Stewards—William T. Bailey, John T. Seymour, Chas. P. Bowyer, Christian Schrack, Richard Twelves, Chas. W. Garman, R. Levis Shivers, H. H. Marter, J. B. Kemp, E. G. C. Bleakley, H. M. Helmbold, Wm. P. Partenheimer.

Class Leaders—G. Gerry White, James Develin, Rev. A. B. Richardson, Mrs. Wm. Bleakley.

Epworth League and Christian Endeavor—Richard G. Develin, Pres.

Ladies' Mite Society—Mrs. B. F. Archer, Pres.; Mrs. S. B. Northrup, Vice Pres.; Mrs. John Turner, Sec'y; Mrs. Christian Schrack, Treas.

Ladies' Aid Society—Mrs. S. B. Northrup, President. Mrs. John Campbell, Jr., 1st Vice-President. Mrs. David Baird, 2nd Vice-President. Mrs. John Turner, Secretary. Mrs. James P. Nieukirk, Treasurer.

Sabbath School Teachers—G. Gerry White, Rev. A. B. Richardson, H. M. Sharp, Miss V. Browning, Miss Helen Bleakley, Miss R. B. Michellon, Christian Schrack, Elwood Prickett, Harris Graffen, John T. Seymour, Miss A. B. Brown, Miss Carrie Develin, Miss Mary Campbell, Mrs. H. Jackson, C. P. Byrne, Miss M. B. Bowden, P. Frank Atkins, Miss Ida Seymour, Miss Bessie Sharp, Mrs. R. G. Develin, Miss Helen Richardson, Mrs. A. B. Sutton, Miss F. Sharp, W. P. Partenheimer, Mrs. John Turner, Mrs. W. S. Wheeler, Miss M. A. Baird, Miss M. A. Chew, Mrs. S. C. Whittaker.

The Church, during its entire history of forty-four

years, has quietly gone forward in the work it was called upon to do. In its benevolences, that bear favorable comparison with its sister churches, there has been a spirit of generous liberality in responding to all claims made, and in the offerings for missions, the average per member is on a par with the best in the Conference.

The church has been most fortunate in the pastors who have served during this period, men, all of them of character and ability; and while we cannot mention all in detail, yet we feel that we may refer to the first pastor, the Rev. Henry Baker, who as a young man came to the church serving it but one year; yet in that short period, by his eloquent preaching and faithful ministry, added largely to the membership and handed over to his successor, the Rev. Wm. V. Kelly, D. D., now editor of the Methodist Review, a church firmly established. Under the pastorate of the Rev. Wm. V. Kelly, the church developed most wonderfully. A revival of great power took place, and into the church as a result was gathered a large number of men and women, heads of families. This gave stability to the spiritual life and force of the church, and its influence was and is felt to-day. Under the pastorate of the Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, another revival of more than ordinary character occurred and the church life deepened in its spiritual force, widened in its social influence, and at the end of his pastorate was perhaps more prosperous in all of its departments than at any time in its previous history. Mr. Stockton was succeeded by the Rev. John Y. Dobbins, then a young man of rare ability as a preacher, who filled the pulpit with great acceptability, and accomplished a good work.

Before the expiration of his third year, Mr. Dobbins was transferred to a large church in Covington, Kentucky.

REV. HENRY BAKER

REV. WM. V. KELLY

REV. A. B. RICHARDSON, D. D.

To mention the name of John E. Adams, is to speak of a man most painstaking in all his work, and one whose sermons were of a character that were a charm as well as a benediction to all who heard them.

In naming A. B. Richardson his work stands incarnated in stone, in the church on the corner of Fifth and Cooper streets, and because of his faith, his zeal, his energy, we have our church.

Rev. John S. Heisler, a saint of God was our pastor beloved. His spirit dwells with us still, and his memory remains fragrant and beautiful as the character exemplified by his life.

Through the church there has passed into the land of eternal brightness, men and women whose devoted services and consecrated lives added to its spiritual force, and established firmly that spirit of unity and brotherly kindness which has always characterized the intercourse of its membershp. Among the many who have thus gone from us we may recall: Chas. Sloan, a man quiet and strong in the faith; John Titus, Nathan T. Mulliner, John Little, Samuel Finney, Joshua Peacock, Wm. Bleakley, Benj. H. Browning, John T. Seymour, Benj. F. Archer, Horace M. Sharp, Christian Schrack, Mrs. David Baird, Mrs. John Campbell, Mrs. William Bleakley, all these and many more that might be mentioned, though dead yet live.

The history of the church is marked by a steadfast purpose that has never been departed from, all of its efforts have been directed to that one end. Its services of every character have had the same in view, viz:—to bring the Gospel, in its saving power, to the hearts of men, women and children, not so much by special effort at special ses-

sions, but by and through the ministry of the ordinary means of grace. This purpose has not failed of results in the past and the promise for the future, under the blessing of God, is bright.

The following is a record of membership, Pastors serving, and offerings for Missions, during the past decade:—

Pastors.	Members.	Offering.
1897—James W. Marshall	343	Missions, $752
1899—Henry H. Robinson	335	" 643
1900—William P. Davis	320	" 641
1901—J. B. Wescott	315	" 540
1902—Geo. H. Humason	300	" 622
1903—Geo. H. Humason	325	" 695
1904—Geo. H. Humason	350	" 707
1905—Marshall Owens	359	" 723
1906—Marshall Owens	389	" 724
1907—Marshall Owens	360	" 758
1908—Marshall Owens	390	" 775
1909—Marshall Owens	400	" 780

1909—Rev. Percy Perinchief appointed by Bishop Luther B. Wilson, March 16th, 1909.

The Board of Managers of the Methodist Episcopal Home for the Aged and Infirm of the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, from Centenary Church: Mrs. Mary Baird Fox, Pres.; Mrs. Lavinia Wentling, Fin. Secy; Mrs. Annie Jefferis, Sec'y; Mrs. Esther Mason, Treas.; Mrs. Emma Seymour, Mrs. Anna Parker, Mrs. Jennie Johnson, Mrs. Joanna Peacock, Mrs. Jessie Clow, Mrs. Lavinia Wilson, Mrs. Jennie Jefferies, Miss Margaret Fogg.

Inmates from Centenary Church living in the Home—Mrs. Mary Lanning, Miss Jennie Hare.

JAMES E. BRYAN, PH.D. G.E.LUGAR. L.H.HUNT F. S. FOX A. W. TROTH. E. PRICKETT. DR.A.HOWELL. C.W.GARMAN. WELLING G. SCHRACK
RICHARD G. DEVELIN. JAMES F. DAVIS. R. LEVIS SHIVERS. JAMES DEVELIN. EARL T. DAVIS. E. G. C. BLEAKLY.
JOHN E. ROSSELL. REV. MARSHALL OWENS CHAS. P. BOWYER.

CENTENARY OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

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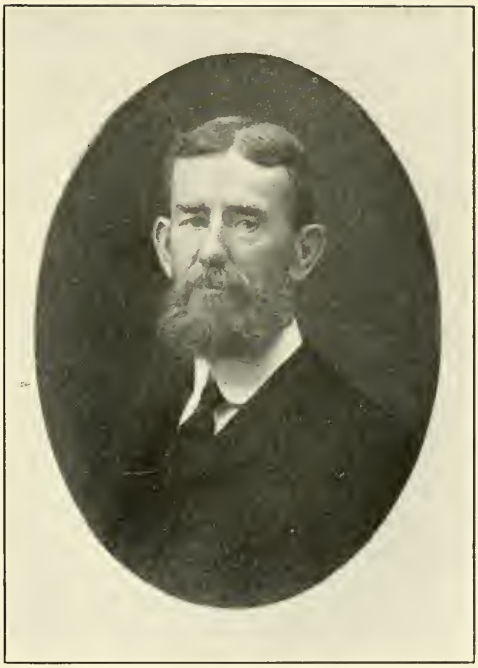
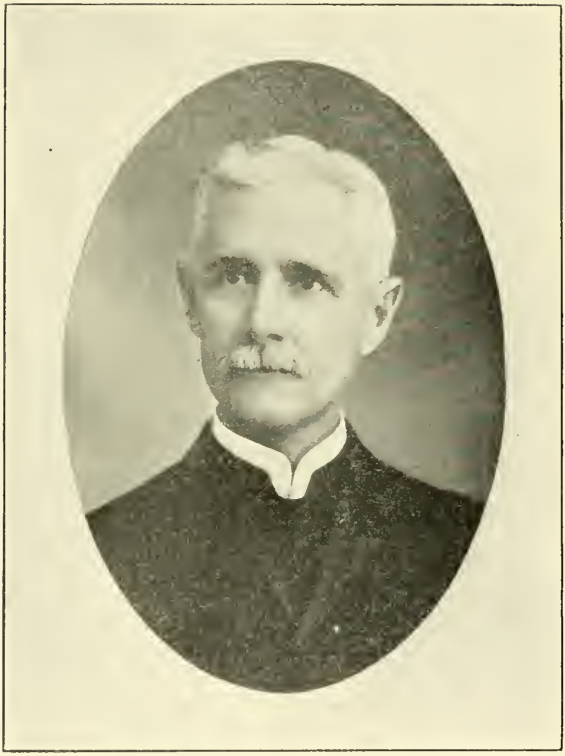


HERMAN A. HELMBOLD



REV. PERCY PERINCHIEF

The Pastors of the church and the years of service have been as follows:—Rev. Henry Baker, 1866-1867; Rev. Wm. V. Kelley, 1868-1870; Rev. David H. Schock, 1870-1871; Rev. Joseph B. Dobbins, 1872-1874; Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, 1874-1877; Rev. John Y. Dobbins, 1877-1879; Rev. John E. Adams, 1880-1883; Rev. J. Leander Sooy, 1883-1885; Rev. John S. Heisler, 1885-1888; Rev. David H. Schock, 1888-1889; Rev. A. B. Richardson, 1889-1894; Rev. James W. Marshall, 1894-1897; Rev. Henry R. Robinson, 1897-1899; Rev. Wm. P. Davis, 1899-1901; Rev. J. B. Wescott, a part of 1901—Dr. Davis being appointed Presiding Elder; Rev. Geo. Humason, 1901-1904; Rev. Marshall Owens, 1904-1909; Rev. Percy Perinchief, 1909.

HISTORY OF THE

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

This church is located on the East Side, on Westfield avenue, just below Church street.

The first building occupied by the society was located on Pleasant street, a short distance from Pavonia station. In 1869 two lots, each nineteen feet front were bought and in 1870 a building twenty feet by thirty feet was erected, and was dedicated in May, 1871. This building was used for nearly ten years, and during the time of its occupancy was known as Harmony Methodist Episcopal Church.

There are no minutes showing who all the first Trustees were, but it is known that a meeting was held at the residence of William Jamison, for organization, on October 4, 1869, and that G. W. Young was elected President, Simpson H. Long, Secretary, and Henry Gill, Treasurer.

On October 22, 1870, a meeting was held for the election of Trustees and William Carter, Justice Harmer, W. H. Gill, William Jamison and Richard Newman were elected.

In 1870, 1871 and 1872, the church was connected with Camden City Mission.

In 1877 it was decided that the future prosperity of the church required a change to a more central and desirable location.

In August, 1879, a lot fifty feet by one hundred feet was bought on Westfield avenue, sixty-eight feet west of Church street, and on this lot the present church building was erected. The Building Committee consisted of Abner Smith, Edward W. Madison, John Shaw, William Holt and John J. Stone.

As this lot was in that part of the present city of Camden, then known as Dudley, a congregational meeting, held May 27, 1878, decided that the name of the church should be Dudley Methodist Episcopal Church. It bore that name until 1897 when, because of change of local government, the name did not represent anything, it was thought advisable to again change it, and a meeting of the congregation was held on March 31, 1897, to consider the matter, and it was then decided by ballot that the new name should be Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, and accordingly amended articles of incorporation were filed.

It is hoped that this name will remain unchanged, and that the same devotion to God and Methodism that characterized the immortal Asbury may also be characteristic of this church that bears his name.

The new church was dedicated on February 13, 1881.

At the session of the New Jersey Conference, held in

1881, the Presiding Elder reported, "Dudley has erected a beautiful frame building with two class rooms, worth thirty-five hundred dollars, upon which when the subscriptions are collected there will be but four hundred dollars debt."

The minutes of that year report but ten full members and no probationers. As all of these were poor it seems almost incredible that so much could have been done.

In December, 1884, the ground lying east of the church, extending to Church street, sixty-eight feet by one hundred and fifty feet was bought for parsonage purposes, and also fifty feet by fifty feet, in the rear of the church lot, thus making a lot one hundred and eighteen feet on Westfield avenue and one hundred and fifty feet on Church street.

In 1889 a large and pleasant parsonage was built on the corner and was first occupied by Rev. George H. Neal, Jr., during the first year of his pastorate.

In 1887 the east class room was enlarged and in 1893 it was again enlarged and other extensive improvements were made, including alterations to the tower and re-seating the church.

A growing Methodist population in the region lying north of the railroad seemed to require recognition and as a result a Sunday School was organized there.

The School held its sessions in an unused room in Joseph Glander's house for several months. A time came when the family needed the room and as lots were offered on

HARRY DUNCAN. JOHN S. FOX. J. LINWOOD TODD. J. W. ELLIOTT. ALBERT TODD. ISAAC LIPPINCOTT.
HERBERT TODD. D. EVERETT TODD. J. K ASAY. NOBLE JOHNSON. CHAS. DILWORTH.
CHAS. GRIFFINBURG. H. M. HUSTED. A. B. WARRICK. C. P. H. PHILLIPPI. H. R. BUDD. FRANK CROWELL. HENRY HUBBS.
WM. S. ZELLEY. A. J. SMITH. REV J. W. LEE. THOMAS ADAMS. JAMES P. JOHNSON.

ASBURY OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

favorable terms, ground was bought on River Road, and in 1889 a church building was erected for the use of the Sunday School and for church services. On October 1, 1892, this building was destroyed by fire(believed to have been of incendiary origin) and the following year a new and larger one was erected on the same site. Considerable help was received from several of the churches of the Conference and without this aid it would not have been possible to rebuild. Out of this enterprise has come Fairview Methodist Episcopal Church, which in 1898 became a separate charge and has had a very successful history.

For several years efforts were made to provide for the debt which had existed since the parsonage was built and these efforts were finally successful and in 1907 the mortgage was burned in the presence of a happy congregation. The honor of applying the match was given to Thomas Adams and William S. Zelley, the two oldest members of the Board of Trustees.

During 1908 many improvements were made to the church, including a new slate roof, repapering, relighting, etc., at an expense of $2,800.00.

At the Conference of 1908 the Trustees reported having property to the value of $10,000 and no debt. The minutes of the present year will show a considerably greater value but because of the improvements referred to a debt will also have to be reported.

The present membership is 265.

The Sunday School enrollment is 380.

The Pastors who have served the church are: Rev.

Joseph Hopkins, 1870-1873; Rev. W. P. Clark, 1874-1876; Rev. J. F. Matthews, 1877; Rev. C. H. McAnney, 1878; Rev. S. E. Post, part of 1879; Rev. J. H. Boyd, balance of 1879-1880; Rev. Peter Carty, 1881; Rev. W. H. Burley, 1882; Rev. Robert S. Harris, 1883-1885; Rev. Robert M. Waples, 1886-1887; Rev. Thomas S. Wilson, 1888; Rev. George H. Neal, Jr., 1889-1891; Rev. John B. Westcott, 1892-1896; Rev. Joseph Garrison, 1897-1899; Rev. George R. Middleton, 1900-1903; Rev. George T. Harris, 1904-1906; Rev. J. J. Lee, 1907-1908; Rev. Jesse R. Thompson, 1909.

Sunday School Superintendents:—William Hamlin, 1873; Edward W. Madison, 1874; Webster Gill, 1875; Edward W. Madison, 1878; S. Harmer, 1879; J. H. Boyd, 1880; John J. Stone, 1881; Edward W. Madison, 1882; J. F. Barnett, 1883; Charles Wentzell, 1884-1885; Joshua Tushingham, 1886-1891; A. James Smith, 1892-1908; Charles Dilworth, 1909.

Superintendents at Pavonia—Fairview—Samuel Dare, Jonas Shaw, William S. Zelley, 1891-1897.

The present official list is as follows:—

Pastor, Jesse R. Thompson.

Local Preachers—A. James Smith, John Crowley, Arthur Mansure, Fred. B. Morley, George Brown.

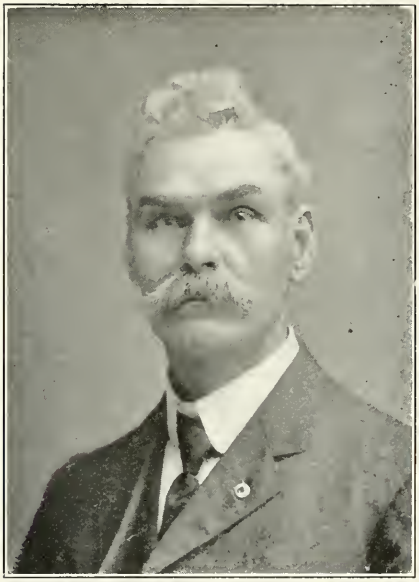
Exhorters—William Royal, Paul Miller.

Sunday School Superintendent, Chares Dillworth.

Epworth League President, Edward E. Patchett.

REV. JESSE R. THOMPSON

ASBURY M. E. CHURCH, 1909



JAMES K. ASAY

REV. J. W. LEE

Stewards—James K. Asay, William T. Lamb, George Corkhill, John Elliott, Noble Johnston, Herbert Todd, D. Everett Todd, Harry Husted, Charles Dillworth, Charles Griffenberg, Isaac Lippincott, Henry Hubbs, Charles Carter, Charles Chamberlain, Curtis P. H. Phillippi, James P. Johnston.

Class Leaders—Albert M. Todd, William Royal, John Crowley, Hazel Carman.

President Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Ruth E. Blessing.

Junior League Superintendent, Mrs. Amanda Moran.

President Home Missionary Society, Mrs. James K. Asay.

Trustees—Thomas Adams, who has been continuously in the Board since April, 1883; William S. Zelley, who has been continuously in the Board since 1884; J. Linwood Todd, elected in September, 1895; Joseph P. Martin, elected September, 1901; Harry Duncan, elected September, 1903; Horace R. Budd, elected September, 1906; Frank Crowell, elected September, 1907; John S. Fox, elected September, 1901; Harry Duncan, elected Septemtember, 1908.

HISTORY OF THE

Kaighn Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

About the year 1875 under the direction of the Rev. A. K. Street, Brothers Wm. Noble and James W. Mulford, were directed to look around the lower section of Camden and find a suitable place to erect a Mission school. Upon inquiring of one, Wm. Burns, he told them that they could have the corner store at Third and Mechanic streets as he had no tenant for it, and through the kindness of Mr. Burns, who was a Catholic by denomination, they secured the store gratis. During a revival Mr. Burns was converted and became an active worker.

The following Sabbath, Brothers William Noble and Mulford, with the assistance of a few others opened a school; seven scholars were the result of the first day's labor. Their number increased very rapidly, and in a little while the building was too small to accommodate the poor children of the neighborhood. The matter was brought before the official board of Union M. E. Church, and Brothers Noble and Mulford were instructed to secure a lot for the purpose of erecting a Mission Chapel.

A plot of ground was secured on Liberty street above Third, and a building erected, which is occupied at the present time by the Methodist Protestant church.

After the completion of the Chapel it was dedicated as the Liberty Street M. E. Mission, under the direction of the Union M. E. Quarterly conference, Brothers Wm. Noble, Superintendent; J. W. Mulford, Assistant Superintendent; Jno. Sharp, Treasurer; C. C. Thompson, Secretary; Jos. LeChord, Chorister; Miss Sallie Hand, Organist; Wm. Burns and Wm. Ottinger, Librarians.

Teachers: Miss Mary Hand, Mrs. Fox, Dr. Lechner, D. W. Saphoru, Wm. Bennett, Emma Bennett, Emma Furbe, Liddie Jefferies, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Hunter, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Hamson. School numbering about 150 scholars.

During the winter months a glorious revival broke out and Brothers Mulford, Dally, and Thompson secured the services of dear old Brother Stockton to preach and take charge of the meetings. About one hundred precious souls found peace with God. Many who were saved had not been in a church for 30 or 40 years, and one old Brother, who has since died and gone home to Heaven said he had not been inside of a church for 40 years, and a large number of men and women were saved, also some of that number are making their mark in the world to day.

During the spring of 1879, 31 active members of the Mission asked the Rev. James Moore, Pastor of Union M. E. Church for their letters for the purpose of starting an independent church so the Word of God might be

preached every Sabbath in the Mission building, which was refused by the Union Church people.

Having a desire to do good, and have the Word of God preached among the poor of the lower section of Camden, the 31 faithful members persisted in having their letters, which was finally granted, but they were denied the use of the Mission Chapel, a special meeting having been called by the Pastor of Union church to take action on the same.

The following day, Friday, a room was secured on Front street below Kaighn's avenue over a blacksmith shop, and a dark, dingy place it was, but after considerable labor the room presented quite a tidy appearance. Brothers Mulford and Thompson wended their way to Philadelphia and secured two hundred chairs to make ready for the first Sabbath worship.

Rev. Wm. Stockton volunteered to take charge and preach until such times as the Conference would appoint a Pastor. That was a glorious year also, as many precious ones were saved through the efforts of Brother Stockton and God's Power.

The school was conducted by Brother Mulford, Superintendent; C. C. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent; Jno. Dally, Treasurer; Jas. Lechard, Secretary; Wm. Burns, and Wm. Ottinger, Librarian; Rev. Stockton's daughter as organist. School numbering about 200 scholars.

In March 1880. The conference appointed the Rev. J. H. Boswell, Pastor of Grace M. E. Church, which name was selected by Rev. Wm. Stockton. Rev. Boswell had

GRACE M. E. CHURCH, 1880.
(Now Knighn Avenue M. E. Chur-h)

not been with us but a few months when he secured a lot 88x100 on the north side of Kaighn avenue below Third street and commenced to erect a church the site of the present Kaighn Avenue M. E. Church. The cellar was dug, the foundation laid, then the work stopped for the winter, so a frame building in rough form was put up to worship in during the winter. The following spring and summer the church was completed.

While building, the congregation worshipped in a tent on a lot at the corner of 3rd and Sycamore streets. While there Brother Boswell held revival meetings, and one of our noted preachers in the New Jersey Conference to-day was converted, the Rev. J. F. Shaw. Since that time other young men have started out from Kaighn Avenue M. E. Church to labor in the Master's Vineyard: Revs. Walter Shaw, Wm. K. Fisher, J. Franklin Smith, and Wm. Sidebottom. Brother Sidebottom was in poor health and did not live long to labor for the Master.

The following preachers served as pastor of Grace M. E. Church:

Rev. John H. Boswell, March 1880 to 1883; Rev. B. C. Lippincott, Sr., 1883 to 1884; Rev. C. F. Downs, 1884 to 1885; Rev. J. E. Lake, 1885 to 1888; (during Rev. J. E. Lake's Pastorate, the name was changed to Kaighn Avenue M. E. Church) Rev. J. F. Heilenman, 1888 to 1889; Rev. David Steward, 1889 to 1890; Rev. E. L. Allen, 1890 to 1892; Rev. D. E. Lyon, 1892 to 1893; Rev. J. E. Lake, 1893 to 1894; Brother Lake was sent to Kaighn Avenue Church the second time subject to the Broadway Quarterly Conference as City Missionary.

From March 1894 to October, the same year the church was without a pastor. The conference gave up all hopes for the success of the church with its heavy burden of debt, but a few of the faithful workers held a meeting and prayed to God for help in what seemed to be the darkest hours. We felt that God would be with us if we trusted Him and did our duty; so we waited on the Official Board of Broadway M. E. Church, as we were under the direction of the Broadway M. E. Quarterly Conference. We asked permission to hold on to the Sabbath school, we were promised we could if we would keep the interest paid as it fell due, also would have to pay the back interest, which was one month overdue, two hundred dollars and twenty cents. We agreed to raise one half in one week if they would raise the other half. The following Monday evening Brother Hopper turned over to Dr. Street $100.10.

The faithful few went forward trusting in the Lord, kept the Sabbath school together, and through the kindness of some local preachers, we had preaching every Sunday morning and evening. The Rev. J. L. Wilde, local preacher, connected at the time with Tabernacle M. E. Church volunteered to preach and take charge of the services, and many precious ones were saved.

In October through the efforts of Brother G. C. Baker and Broadway Quarterly Conference, Rev. J. L. Surtees was appointed. Brother Surtees labored hard from October 1894 to 1899. He made extensive improvements costing in round numbers about $600, and money raised as soon as the work was completed, also a parsonage costing about $4,000.00 was built.

Rev. J. R. Mason was appointed, March 1899 to March

JAMES CARTER

H. S. RIDDLE, M. D.

CHARLES PLUM

SAMUEL GANT

FRANK O. JACKSON

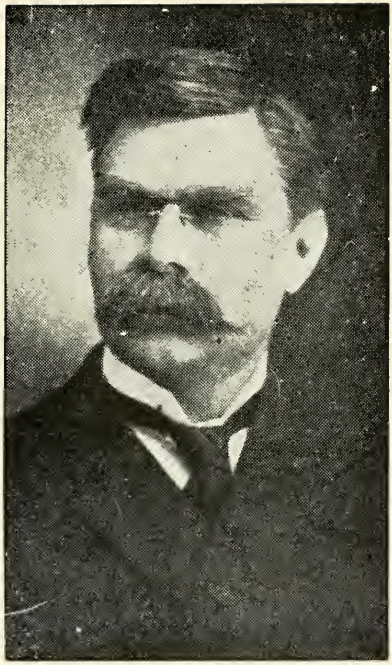
CHARLES SMITH

REV. S. K. MOORE

A. L. KING

KAIGHN AVENUE OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX
FOUNDATIONS



REV. J. E. SURTEES

REV. S. K. MOORE

1903, and labored hard for four years and many found peace in God under Brother Mason's pastorate. During Brother Mason's last year as pastor the church was set off independent of the City Mission. We extended a call to Rev. J. W. Lee to become pastor in March 1903; J. W. Lee was appointed and served for four years, and did much good in building up the church. In March 1907, Rev. S. K. Moore was appointed, and labored hard during his two years' pastorate. In March, 1909, Rev. Wm. Disbrow was appointed pastor and is now very vigorously and effectually pushing the work of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Through many difficulties Kaighn Avenue M. E. Church was established. In fact the whole period of her existence has been one of struggle, nevertheless, God has helped her and now it looks as if this daughter is coming out of the wilderness, leaning on the arm of her beloved.

With so many children attending the Sabbath school and souls being born into the Kingdom at her altar there seems a great need for this Zion in this location. Hence the prospect for her future is bright.

The names of superintendents serving Grace M. E. and Kaighn Avenue Sunday school are as follows:

Mr. Charles Thompson, 1880-1885; Mr. John Dolby, 1886--1887; Mr. Charles Thompson, 1888-1889; Mr. Joseph Large, Mr. Frank Wright, Mr. William Fisher, Mr. James Clark, 1892; Mr. Wm. Sidebottom, 1893; Mr. George Cummings, 1894; Mr. Chas. H. Smith, 1895-1897; Mr. George Baker, 1898; Mr. Chas. H. Smith, 1899-1906; Mr. Harris Coffin, 1907; Mr. Chas. H. Smith, 1908-1909.

HISTORY OF THE
Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church
OF CAMDEN, N. J.

Bethany M. E. Church, Camden, is situate at the Northwest corner of Cooper and Tenth streets, and occupies an ideal site for a church, Cooper street being the principal and most beautiful residential street in the city.

The church had its origin in a small Sunday school organized in 1880, and which held its first meeting in the basement of the grocery store of Mr. Asa Cox, corner of Atlantic avenue and Federal street. The first scholars were obtained by the inducement that if they attended the Sunday school they would receive the large sum of one cent. Mr. Asa Cox took an active interest in the work, and was ably seconded by Mr. Louis Wheaton of the Third Street M. E. Church (now the First M. E. Church), Mr. Wheaton acting as the first Superintendent of the Sunday school. Rev. Caleb Butterworth took an active interest in the school and was the only person who preached in the basement room.

Shortly after it was organized the school moved to the home of Mr. John Miller, 217 North Ninth street, where it held sessions every Sunday afternoon. During the time

it occupied the residence of Mr. Miller, the school was adopted as the Mission of the Third street (now First) M. E. Church, and Mr. Wheaton was approved by the Quarterly Conference of that church as superintendent.

While the school was meeting at the residence of Mr. Miller, Charles J. Butler, the well known evangelist, became interested in the school, and eventually succeeded Mr. Wheaton as superintendent. Mr. Butler, who is quite tall, tells the story of a neighbor who saw him going into the small Sunday school at this time, remarking that he was a big man for such a small school.

The school continued to grow, and about 1883 removed from the residence of Mr. Miller to larger quarters on Federal street near Tenth street where Mr. W. J. Patton was elected Superintendent of the school. Mr. Patton served only a short time, when Mr. Charles J. Butler was again elected Sperintendent of the school.

Up to this time the Sunday school had been connected with the Third Street M. E. Church, but in June, 1884, it was transferred to the City Missions, and regularly organized as Bethany M. E. Church. The name was suggested by Mrs. Sarah Moslander, who has only recently died, quoting from the Scriptures, "And he led them out as far as to Bethany," which seemed to fit the circumstances, and the name was unanimously adopted. The Rev. T. D. Sleeper was appointed by the Presiding Elder of the District to be first Pastor.

The church continued to grow under the pastorate of Mr. Sleeper, and also under the pastorate of Rev. Edmund C. Hulse, who was appointed by the Conference in 1885.

In 1886 the Rev. Robert Harris (familiarly known as Father Harris) was appointed pastor of the church, and under his leadership it was decided to purchase a lot and build. A lot was finally purchased at the northwest corner of Cooper and Tenth streets, the present location of the church, for $2,900, and it was decided to build immediately. Ground was broken in April, 1886, and the building was finally completed at a cost of $1,100. It was dedicated July 18, 1886. Only a few hundred dollars had been paid on account of the lot and building, and the balance due was secured by a mortgage.

Mr. Harris remained as Pastor of the Church until 1889 when he was succeeded by the Rev. George Illman, who remained as Pastor for two years, until 1891.

In 1891 Rev. Joseph F. Shaw was appointed as pastor and remained three years, until 1894. During the pastorate of Mr. Shaw it became necessary to build an addition to the church, which was done at an expense of $1500.00.

In 1894 the Rev. Sanford M. Nichols was appointed pastor and remained until 1899. During the pastorate of Mr. Nichols the debt on the church was reduced considerably, and the membership largely increased.

Rev. William Barnart succeeded Mr. Nichols as pastor, and did good work until he was succeeded in 1899 by Rev. DeWitt C. Cobb. Mr. Cobb was very active and left the church in 1900 in good condition both financially and spiritually.

In March 1900 the Rev. U. G. Hagaman was appointed pastor and remained for three years, until 1903. During the ministry of Mr. Hagaman the present parsonage on

BETHANY M. E. CHURCH, 1886

J. Simpson. A. Schraeder. T. Murphy. J. Prosser. G. Potter. A. Miller. C. Ziegler.
C. Banks. E. Walz. G. Cameron. J. Kidd. M. Wallace. W. Crane.
W. Packer. A. Brown. J. N. Eisenhardt. C. Ridgeway. H. Crowley. H. Zane. C. Walz.
F. Warner. Mrs. C. Walz. Mrs A. L. James. Rev. A. Dare. Mrs. F. Hellings. Mrs. J. H. Eisenhardt.

BETHANY OFICIAL BOARD 1909

REV. ALFONSO DARE

Cooper street was purchased at a cost of $2,500, the sum of $500.00 being paid on account thereof and the balance of $2,000 secured by a mortgage. Mr. Hagaman was very active in raising quite a sum towards the debt on the church property.

Upon the removal of Mr. Hagaman in 1903 to another charge after three years of successful work, the Rev. Daniel Johnson was appointed pastor and he labored very earnestly and successfully for two years, until 1905.

In 1905 the conference sent the Rev. W. W. Ridgely as pastor, and during the pastorate of Mr. Ridgely the mortgage upon the church property was finally paid off, and the mortgage was burned amid great rejoicings among the congregation. Mr. Ridgely remained two years, until 1907.

In 1907 the conference sent the present pastor, Rev. Alfonso Dare, under whose vigorous leadership the church building was completely remodelled and moved, and improvements made at a cost of $5,000, of which $4,200 has been raised and paid, and the balance of $800.00 provided for. The pastorate of Mr. Dare has been one of the most successful in the history of Bethany.

The church property, including the parsonage, is valued at about $13,000, upon which there is a mortgage on the parsonage of $2000.00, and about $800 still due for improvements on the church, but which amount has been fully provided for and will be paid when due.

The church is in better condition, both financially and spiritually, than at any other period in its existence. There

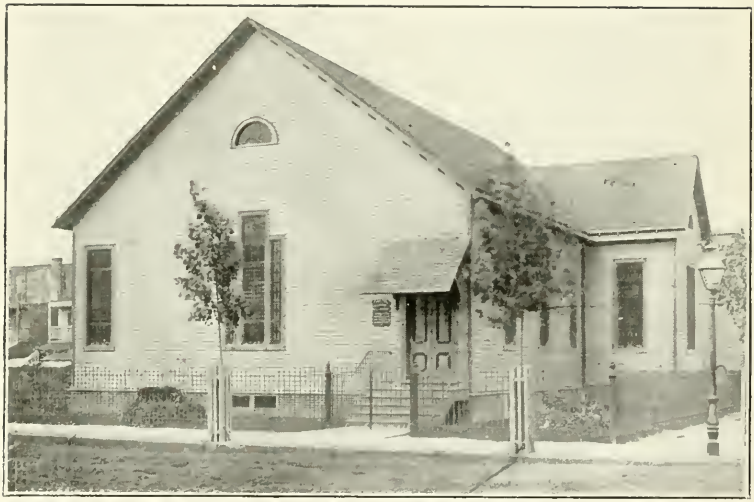
are at present 230 members in good standing and about fifty probationers on the church rolls.

The Sunday School has a fine corps of teachers and officers. There are at present about 484 scholars enrolled in the whole school. The Sunday school has always been in the lead in raising money towards the indebtedness of the church. The Superintendents of the Sunday school since its organization have been as follows: Main school—Lewis Wheaton, Charles J. Butler, William J. Patton, Michael Fleetwood, Robert T. Lee, Everett Cobb, Walter Crane, J. H. Rowland, Harry Zane, John Luke, and the present superintendent, Alexander Shrader. The primary department—Miss Bessie Scout, Miss Anna Wells, Mrs. Sarah Valentine, Mrs. Alice Bayliss, Miss Maggie Moore, Mrs. Rachel Eisenhardt, Mr. Harry Crowley.

A number of young men have entered the ministry from our church, prominent among whom is the Rev. Dr. Melville Snyder, one of the leading younger ministers of the New Jersey Conference. Rev. Harry Risley, now in the West, was also a young man connected with our church.

Mr. Charles Risley from Bethany is now studying at Pennington Seminary, and we believe will make his mark in the ministry of the Gospel.

BETHANY M. E. CHURCH, 1909



WILEY M. E. CHURCH, 1885

HISTORY OF THE

Wiley Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

In the year 1884 a mission, located on Pine street near Locust, which had been under the care of Fifth Street M. E. Church for some time, not proving very successful was transferred to the care of Broadway church.

It was then known as Eagle Hall Mission and was taken in charge by George Davis, who conducted a successful Sunday school in connection with the Mission work.

In 1885 the property on Pine street was sold for $700.00 and a lot purchased at the Southwest corner of Third and Beckett streets. On this corner a very pretty and substantial church building was erected at a cost of $5191.27. It was dedicated in October 1885 as the Wiley Methodist Episcopal Church, but it continued for five years as a Mission under the care of Broadway church. The services were conducted by Local Preachers connected with that church usually Dr. Street or Daniel B. Green until the year 1887.

In that year the Conference appointed Rev. H. N. Cheeseman to this charge in which he continued for three years, Rev. S. H. Hann succeeding him in 1890 at which time Broadway church conveyed the property to the Wiley M. E. Church organization free of all debt except a mortgage of $2,500.00.

During the third year of the pastorate of Rev. S. H. Hann a very comfortable parsonage was erected on the Third street lot adjoining the church at a cost of $2,600.00. The sum of $1,000.00 was raised and paid in cash on the operation and a mortgage for $1,600.00 placed on the property.

The Rev. J. E. Willey became pastor in 1893 and was followed in 1896 by Rev. W. A. Massey who served the charge for three years, he being succeeded for two years by Rev. H. S. Gascoyne.

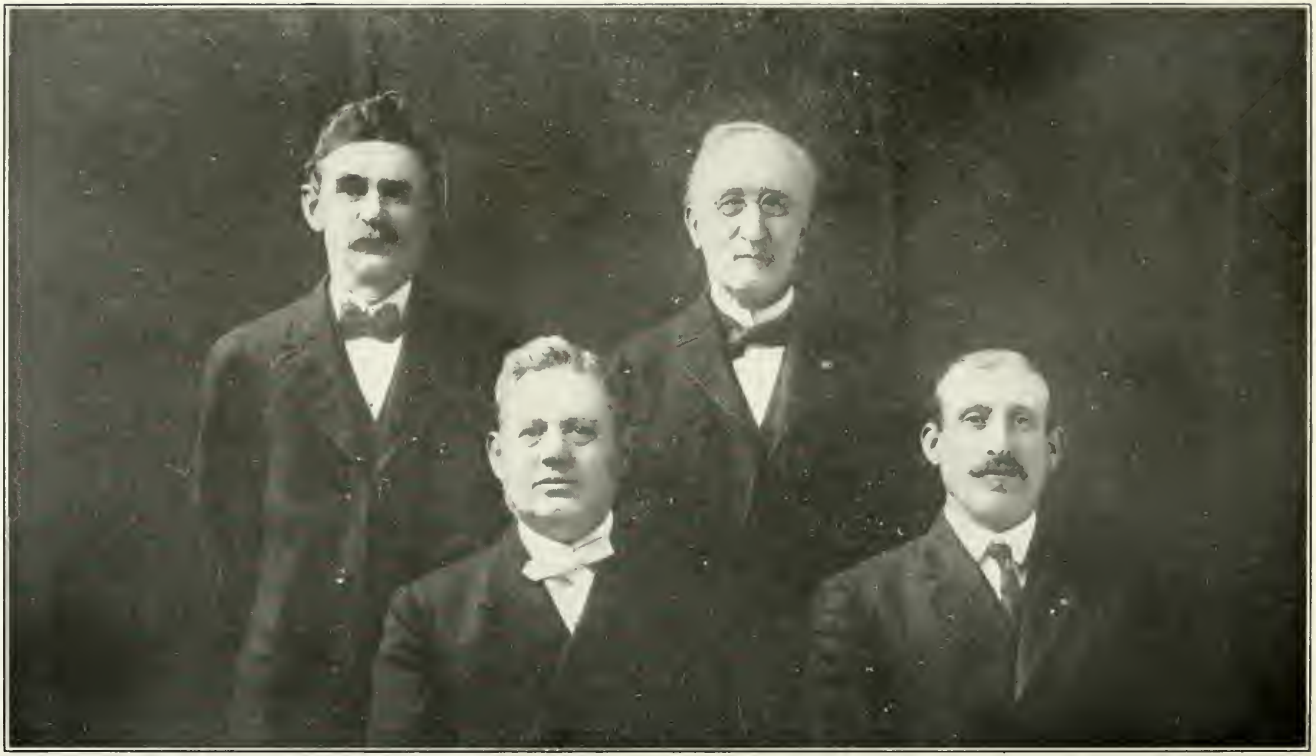
In 1901 Rev. C. I. Fitzgeorge became pastor and under his leadership the first determined effort was made to reduce the indebtedness on the property the result being a reduction of $500.00 before his pastorate ended in 1904.

When Rev. Alfonso Dare became pastor he found the church, a frame building which had weathered the storms of two decades and had been very much neglected, greatly in need of repairs as well as being quite incapable of accommodating the large and increasing Sunday school connected with the church.

As soon as sufficient funds were secured to warrant doing so, a reconstruction and improvement of the property, was commenced. The building was raised, the basement

REV. S. LUDLOW

WILEY M. E. CHURCH, 1909



WILLIAM BRADSHAW WILLIAM PROSSER

REV. W. S. LUDLOW S. O. GODFREY

WILEY OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

JOSEPH WARD JOHN ALLEN FERD. S. SMITH JOHN BARNETT JOHN DELAMATER, JR.
ALBERT KNOX S. P. HUTCHINSON T. R. DEVAULT

WILEY OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

REV. H. N. CHEESEMAN

being made into a very comfortable Sunday school room with library, class room and kitchen.

The cost of these improvements with furnishings secured at this time amounted to $3,751.39 all of which together with $400.00 of the previous indebtedness was paid in full during the three years in which Rev. A. Dare remained as pastor of the church. His pastorate was noted for activity along all lines, a spirit of revival was strong throughout, and the church progressed spiritually and in numbers, as well as being placed in good financial condition.

The Rev. W. S. Ludlow, the present pastor, took charge in 1907.

Wiley has been noted throughout its history for its spirituality and many very successful revival seasons have been witnessed within her precincts.

Her Sunday school work has been carried on by faithful superintendents as follows: George Davis, to 1888; P. D. Hughes, from that time to 1907; and by John Delamater, Jr., to the present time.

Four young men trained in our Sunday schools have gone forth to preach the Gospel: Charles Gray, Isaac Christman, Joseph Fullerton, and Arthur J. Lumley.

The Quarterly Conference of the church at this time is as follows:

Pastor, Rev. W. S. Ludlow; Exhorter, Albert Knox; Class leaders, S. P. Hutchinson, John Delamater, Jr.; Secretary of Official Board, John Barnett; Treasurer, F. S.

Smith; President Board of Trustees, S. R. Devault; President Ladies' Aid, Mrs. W. Conine; Stewards, W. D. Bruce, J. N. Conne, Wm. Conine, F. J. Tushingham, E. M. E. Stone, Horace Heulings, Joseph Ward, John Allen; Trustees, Arthur Heron, James Heron, Samuel W. Barrett, Samuel O. Godfrey, Wm. Prosser, James Bishop.

HISTORY OF THE

Fairview Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

In the spring of 1886 a meeting was held at the home of Mr. Samuel Dare on Fulton street (now 25th street, East Camden), for the purpose of instituting a Methodist Mission. Though not strong in numbers they were determined, and the meeting finally culminated in the establishment of a Sunday school, consisting of Brother and Sister Dare, Mr. Barnet as superintendent, and four scholars.

The first pulpit was a large dry goods box covered with calico, and Brother Dare's old family bible was the first in use. In the course of a few months the number of scholars increased to such an extent that they were offered the use of a large store, which was accepted, the attendance continued to increase, till there were about sixty scholars when they began to look around for other quarters. A proposition was offered them by a Mr. Cohn, who had bought some land from Mr. Wm. Cooper, called Fairview, a committee was appointed to confer with him and resulted in the acceptance of his proposition, which was the purchase of the lots where the church now stands. A certain amount of money had to be paid before the church

could be built, but the whole congregation went to work with a will, and were not long in raising the needed sum, they being greatly assisted in their work by Rev. Mr. Wilson the pastor of Dudley (now Asbury M. E. Church) under whose charge as a mission they were enrolled.

Mr. Barnet resigned as superintendent of the Sunday school at this time (year of 1889) Mr. David Keever filling the vacancy. About this time Brother Wilson was removed from the charge of the mother church and Rev. Geo. Neal was appointed in his place. Brother Neal became greatly interested in the mission; and came over every Thursday evening and held prayer meeting. In September of this year (1889) the corner stone was laid for the church building, presiding elder Rev. Milton Relyea, Rev. John Westwood of the First M. E. Church and Rev. Geo. Neal of the mother church taking part in the ceremonies.

In the early part of December the scholars marched in a body to the church, feeling quite proud of their new home. In January 1890 the church was dedicated. Services were held on Sabbath as follows: Class meeting in the morning, Samuel Dare, leader; Sunday school in the afternoon, and services in the evening, at which time the exhorters from Asbury church would have charge. Mr. Keever then resigned as the Sunday school Superintendent, Mr. Shaw, being elected to the vacancy. And this by wise management the school and church continued to increase. Local preachers were engaged to preach both Sabbath morning and evening, class meeting being changed to Tuesday evening.

At the Conference of 1891 Mr. Charles White was appointed to serve the mission which he did for one year.

Mr. Shaw resigned as Superintendent of the school, Mr. Wm. Zelley being appointed to the vacancy and served as long as it was a mission.

After conference of 1892 the local preachers of the Mother church again served the mission, aided by the Rev. J. B. Wescott the pastor, who had been appointed in the place of the Rev. Geo. Neal.

On the third of October of this year (1892) the church building, from fire of an unknown origin was burned to the ground. An offer from the Republican Club at 27th and River avenue for the Congregation to worship in their building was accepted, until July 1893, at which time the present building was erected.

Conference of 1893 appointed Rev. Wm. McClaskey to supply the pulpit. He served until fall and then went west. During the remainder of that year and until conference of 1895 Mr. Blake, Mr. Severns and Mr. Wells filled the pulpit in succession. At the conference of 1895, Rev. Harry Denlinger was appointed to the charge and served until 1897 when Rev. Edw. Wells followed, serving a short time. Rev. John Newkirk followed, serving until the church was organized in 1898.

The Sabbath school then had a total membership of 73.

On March 29th 1898, at a meeting of which Brother Wm. T. Pinner was chairman, a committee was appointed to procure articles of incorporation for an independent church and on April 12th of the same year the church was incorporated, Rev. J. T. Wilde being the first pastor at a salary of $150.00 per year. The first Trustees were

Brothers B. Johnson, Geo. Carey, Wm. Travis, H. G. Shockley, A. Liming, Wm. Knox, and Wm. T. Pinner.

Stewards: Geo. Carey, B. Johnson, Geo. H. Ensley, Wm. Ward, Geo. Straughn, Joseph Wood, Mrs. E. Southwick, and Mrs. Catherine Funfer. The indebtedness on the church was $1,584,00 a mortgage of $1,200.00, and two notes amounting to $384.00. During Brother Wilde's pastorate the notes were paid thus leaving the mortgage of $1,200.00 when he resigned in 1901, having served three years doing good work for the Master and greatly beloved by the congregation.

At the conference of 1901, Rev. Wm. Grum was appointed to the charge, serving for six years until conference of 1907. Much success attended his ministry both in members being added to the church, among which were several heads of families, and also in beautifying the church. Stained glass windows were put in, the church was fitted up with electric lights, new carpet, and money raised by free-will offerings on the part of the congregation toward paying off the mortgage of $1,200., and finally the burning of the mortgage, in October 1906, thus leaving the church free of debt. There were three class meetings in the church: Sunday morning, leader, L. G. Horn; Tuesday evening, Wm. Knox, and Friday evening, Wm. T. Pinner. Brothers Horn and Knox resigned under Bro. Grum's pastorate. Brother Manuel Hope was appointed leader of Sunday morning class and Rudolph Lack of the Tuesday night class. There was also a Children's Class meeting on Sunday afternoon, Sister Collins, leader, who resigned, and was succeeded by Sister Snape, who also resigned and she was succeeded by Sister White, the present leader. The salary of Bro. Grum was $150.00 the first

FAIRVIEW M. E. CHURCH, 1909

REV. P. W. BILDERBACK

year, but it was increased to $600.00 and house rent by the time that he was removed elsewhere.

At the Conference of 1907, the Rev. P. W. Bilderback was appointed to the charge. During his pastorate the subject of a parsonage was brought forward, and on April 17th, 1907, a Building Committee was appointed as follows: Rev. P. W. Bilderback, Geo. Allender, Henry O. Geschwindt, Jared Noeker, S. L. Bagenstose and Wm. T. Pinner, who immediately drew up plans for a building alongside of the church at a contract price of $2,650.00, the house being completed in November of the same year, the pastor and family duly installed in the new home. Up to the present time there has been paid on the building $650 out of the $915 left as a legacy to the church through the generosity of Sister Mary Ward. Thus at this time there is $2,000 still due on the parsonage.

This is the history up to the present time of Fairview Church as near as the Committee could gather the facts together.

Following are the names of the members of the Quarterly Conference at the present time.

Pastor, Rev. P. W. Bilderback.

Trustees—President, Rudolph Lack; secretary, S. L Bagenstose; treasurer, Geo. Allender; Jared Noecker, H. E. Gerschwindt, A. Barnett, Geo. E. White, Howard Rickenbach and Wm. T. Pinner.

Stewards—S. L. Bagenstose, recording; Wm. T. Pinner, district; Geo. Allender, Rudolph Lack, Jared Noecker,

Alb. Barnett, Manuel Hope, A. E. Moorehouse, Geo. White, Cyrus Stroh, Robert Dunn, Geo. Brunner, Alb. Stillwell, Henry Geschwindt, Herman Niemeyer, Geo. Dalgarn, Elmer Stroh, Geo. Leinauer, James White, Abraham Brown.

Following is a list of Sunday School Superintendents, together with the number of Officers and Teachers, and scholars of the Sunday School since the Church organization:

Year.	Superintendents.	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars.	Total Membership.
1898	Mrs. Clara Ensley,	18	85	103
1899	Wm. T. Pinner,	16	154	170
1900	" "	18	104	122
1901	S. L. Bagentose,	17	113	130
1902	" "	13	132	145
1903	" "	13	147	160
1904	" "	15	164	179
1905	" "	20	180	200
1906	" "	18	195	213
1907	" "	19	163	182
1908	" "	18	219	237
1909	" "	21	263	284

Following are the different organizations connected with the church and the names of the President of each:

Epworth League, Manuel Hope, President.

Junior Epworth League, William E. Brown, President.

Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. E. Southwiek, President.

Usher's Union, H. E. Gesehwindt, President.

ALBERT MOOREHOUSE. MANUAL HOPE. CYRUS STROH. ELMER STROH. W T. PINNER ALBERT STILLWELL. H. E. GESCHWINDT. GEO. WHITE
ALBERT BARNETT. HOWARD W. RICKENBACH. JAMES WHITE. JARED NOECKER.
S. I BAGENSTOSE GEORGE ALLENDER. REV P. W. BILDERBACK RUDOLPH LACK

FAIRVIEW OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909.

Camp Meeting Association, Wm. T. Pinner, President.

The Cradle Roll and the Home Class of the Sunday School is in charge of Sister S. Valentine, who, although in her 86th year, does active service for the Master, having been actively engaged since the church was a mission.

The church at the present time has a total membership of 157, who are thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the Lord, and of true Methodism and the advancement of God's Kingdom.

Signed,

H. E. GESCHWINDT,
C. O. STROH,
WM. T. PINNER,
GEO. ALLENDER,
R. LACK,
S. L. BAGENSTOSE,
Committee.

Secretary of Committee,
GEO E. WHITE.

HISTORY OF THE

State Street Methodist Episcopal Church

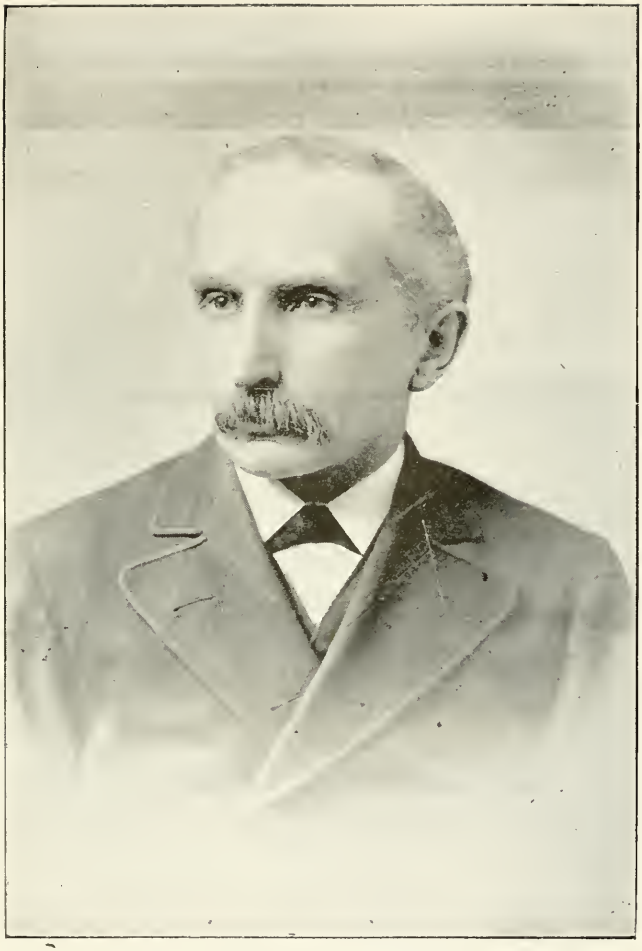
OF CAMDEN, N. J.

THE MISSION.

The record of the State Street M. E. Church, and before it, the Mission, is one of unbroken attainment and success from the beginning. Providence has smiled upon its labors and made it a blessing to hundreds of homes in this community.

He who saw the need of carrying the Gospel to the children of Cooper's Point has been spared to see his visions grow into realities. Not only that, but in all the history of the school and church he has been able, in spite of the cares of business or physical ailments, to be present and take part in every Christmas, Easter and Children's Day entertainment of the school, and every pastor's reception to the church.

In the year 1875, Brother Bingham, then an active official member of Tabernacle M. E. Church, was impressed with the need of some religious work among the children of what was then and is still known as "Cooper's Point." On his daily trips to and from his place of business he saw



BARCLAY C. BINGHAM

JOHN R. HASLETT'S PAINT SHOP, 1875.

there were hundreds of persons whom the established means of grace failed to reach, and felt convinced that something should be done to bring Christ to these people, and especially to the children.

Pondering and praying much over the matter, the impression was deepened into a conviction, and he determined to act in the matter.

With the conviction pressing upon him, Brother Bingham was on the lookout for the means to attain the desired end. His attention was directed to a building, 16x40 feet, known as "Haslett's Paint Shop," corner Point and North streets, which he felt assured could be made to answer the purpose. He learned it belonged to the Camden & Atlantic Railroad, and could be rented for $75 per year. He had several consultations with other active members of Tabernacle Church, and at the third Quarterly Conference, 1875, the governing body of the church endorsed the project.

On October 27th the matter was presented to the Sunday School Board, with the assurance that the mission would be self-supporting. After a lengthy consideration of the matter all objections were withdrawn, and it was unanimously decided to at once inaugurate a mission at Point and North streets, with the following Committee on Organization: Brothers Bingham, Sleeper, Hines, Woodrow, Carson, Green, Corson, Pierson and Patton.

The first meeting of the committee was held on November 14th, 1875, in the lecture room of Tabernacle Church, with the pastor, Rev. George K. Morris, in the chair, at which time a committee was appointed to make the necess-

ary repairs on the old building which was in very bad condtion.

On November 24th, 1875, the fourth and last meeting of the Committee on Oragnization was held, with the pastor in the chair. Repairs were reported as finished, and the following officers were elected: Superintendent, B. C. Bingham; Asst. Superintendent, John Moore; Secretary, George Green; Treasurer, James DeMaris. It was decided to start the mission with the new year. The time between the meeting and dedication was spent in active preparation. Bishop Simpson delivered a lecture in Tabernacle Church, in aid of the movement. Members of the church subscribed liberally, and on the appointed day, January 1st, 1876, the room was thrown open from 2 to 4 P. M. for inspection and dedication.

The interior was fresh and inviting. The walls had been painted and a new floor laid; a neat carpet had been put on the platform and the room furnished with benches. In front the old sign, "John R. Haslet, Paint Shop," had been succeeded by one bearing the words, "Tabernacle Methodist Mission." Everything that could be done was accomplished to convert the old paint shop into a suitable building for the uses intended—the spreading of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a result of announcements and circulars giving details of the movement, and of personal efforts on the part of those interested, on January 2d, 1876, the room was well filled with children of the neighborhood, representing all ages and conditions, some having been neatly dressed by parents and sent to the mission, while others had wandered in through idle curiosity. During the his-

tory of the school Brother Bingham had kept a notebook, and from it we learn that the day was unusually warm for mid-winter and that it rained before the close of the session.

The original enrollment consisted of thirteen officers and teachers and forty-seven scholars.

The work moved on harmoniously, and the end of the first quarter found ninety scholars in the Sabbath school, with fifteen officers and teachers.

During the first year a missionary society was organized, a weekly prayer meeting held, in which several scholars were converted, a library established, an organ purchased, a visiting relief society formed, temperance meetings held, and a Christmas entertainment and treat given for the children. The report submitted at the end of the year showed a record of seventeen officers and teachers, one hundred and ten scholars, with 278 visitors. The amount of the collections were $164.86 from the school and $197.57 collected outside. After all expenses had been paid the school had a balance in the treasury at the close of the year of $14.08.

The pastors of Tabernacle church took great interest in the work and helped in every possible way. Rev. Edmund Hewitt, who succeeded Rev. G. K. Morris, was especially active, editing "The Little Mission" (of which Brother Bingham was business manager) in the interest of the enterprise.

In November, 1878, a committee was appointed to look after the poor, and it is not too much to say that no little

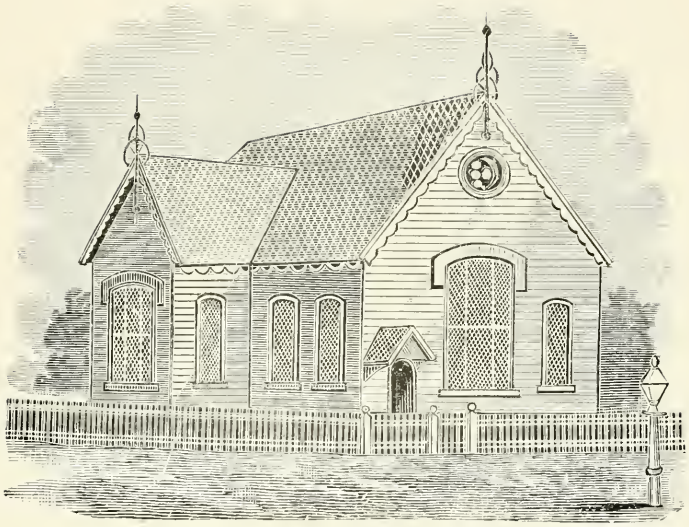
member of the Mission ever went barefooted or thinly clad in the winter again.

'Twas thus the years passed away, filled with work and prayer, crowded with anxieties and hopes for the little mission, which, in the meanwhile, had been constantly growing in numbers and influence until many a home had felt a new impetus and many a careless family was looking up. Christmas brought the treat, and the summer the picnic.

On the fourth of February, 1883, a committee of five, consisting of Brothers Bingham, Propert, Adams, Stiles and Evans, were appointed to select a building site, for the old paint shop could no longer accommodate the Sabbath school. The committee decided upon a plot of ground on the corner of Sixth and State streets, which was surrounded by a rail fence, and which had been used as a truck patch.

Surrounding the plot of ground were fields that the previous summer had been planted with corn. No houses were to the right, to the left, at the rear or in front. But seeing far into the future, and reveling in a vision of paved streets and rows of stone houses, which has actually come to pass, the mission bought the ex-cabbage patch for $3,000, and, letting down the bars, began to lay the foundations of a chapel.

The work of building went on gloriously. Many a hard-earned dollar was thrown into the little treasury, all for love of the work. The brethren builded and dug and plastered to help the cause along. The sisters scrubbed and toiled, inspiring the brethren. When at last the time came to leave the old paint shop behind, the heart,



STATE STREET M. E. CHURCH, 1883

STATE STREET M. E. CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, 1896

filled with precious memories, gave thanks to God mightily, and the little band, with its young charges, took possession of the new chapel.

Previous to the erection of the chapel Rev. J. S. Heisler, pastor of Tabernacle Church, organized the State Street Mission, under the control of the mother church, but having a separate Board of Trustees. The Trustees of State Street Mission were: B. C. Bingham, Z. T. Faunce, W. T. Propert, John H. Stiles, Samuel Hollingsworth, Charles F. Adams and Edward Evans. The organization of the State Street Mission and election of its Trustees took place on April 19th, and the erection of the chapel was immediately pushed.

The chapel cost $2,500, the greater part of which was raised by subscription, Mr. Bingham alone collecting over $1,200 of the sum.

On Thursday evening, September 20th, 1883, after five months of hard labor, the State Street Mission School was formally opened and dedicated as a house of God. The services were under the direction of the Presiding Elder, Rev. J. B. Graw, D. D., and the dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. J. L. Sooy, who was at that time the pastor of Centenary Church.

On Sunday, September 23rd, the Sabbath school was held for the first time in the new chapel, with an enrollment of all the old scholars, save one, and an addition of several new names.

The infant department outgrew its limits, and on June 2d, 1889, a new room at the rear of the chapel was dedi-

cated to that purpose. Other improvements had been made and the chapel was formally reopened with the preaching in the morning by Rev. D. B. Green, and in the evening by Rev. J. L. Sooy, the pastor of Tabernacle church.

On the 20th day of December of this year (1889) the mission met with a severe blow in the death of Mr. Samuel Fish, the assistant superintendent, and one of the most earnest and devoted Christian workers that had ever befriended the little mission.

The changes that had occurred were but a presage of still greater changes. The mission had been self-supporting from the beginning. Encouraged by its past success, it began to think of starting out for itself; and, therefore, at the fourth Quarterly Conference of Tabernacle Church for the year 1889 the Trustees of the mission asked the Quarterly Conference to grant them the privilege of establishing an independent church. The request was granted, and the Presiding Elder was petitioned to appoint a preacher for the ex-mission, now to be called State Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

THE CHURCH.

From this time the history of the school becomes merged in that of State Street Church. The Annual Conference of March, 1890, assigned Rev. C. E. P. Mayhew to the new church. On Sunday, March 23rd, 1890, the new pastor occupied the pulpit for the first time, and the State Street Methodist Episcopal Church was organized with fifty members received by certificate from Tabernacle M. E. Church. The list in full is as follows:

*Barclay C. Bingham, *Mary C. Bingham, Margaret A.

SAMUEL L. JONES. R. B. SIMMERMAN. F. C. PROPERT. POWELL STEEL.
W. A. ROBBINS. S. McCARTER. W. T. PROPERT. B. C. BINGHAM.
CHESTER HEADLEY. CHAS. MARTZ.
ALEXANDER BEITH, SR. REV. S. M. VAN SANT. BENJ. DAVIS.

STATE STREET OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

Bruce, Marietta Boddy, Anna R. Covert, Selena Covert, Lizzie P. Covert. Kate Covert, Ruth Danzenbaker, *George Danzenbaker, Joanna P. Day, Z. T. Faunce, Mary Faunce, *Priscilla A. Fish, George L. Fox, *Lillie W. Fox, Samuel Greaves, Arthur Greaves, Samuel Hollingsworth, E. F. Hollingsworth, Harry Hellings, Mary Hellings, Michael Hoffman, Joseph W. Hinkley, Emma A. Hinkley, Japhet B. Joyce, Beulah Joyce, Albert Joyce, Amanda Kinney, John W. Kemble, Sarah R. Kemble, James Lewallen, Edwin S. Matlock, Ella R. Matlock, Frank B. Mull, *Wm. T. Propert, *Hannah E. Propert, Phoebe Preston, Mary R. Stiles, Catherine Sheldon, Ida L. Sheldon, Charles Sheldon, Mary A. Travis, Franklin B. Titus, Ella Titus, Alice M. Vincent, Lizzie Worthington, Delia T. Wyant and *Verona E. Wheaton.

The church prospered. The Sunday school advanced. The pastor was popular. During his pastorate 120 scholars were added to the school; the church was painted and improved at a cost of several hundred dollars, all of which was paid. The Epworth League was organized, the Ladies' Aid Society was formed and the church membership increased to ninety-six full members and fourteen probationers.

Mr. Mayhew was succeeded by Rev. M. E. Snyder, during whose pastorate a Junior League was formed, Epworth Guards organized (the first company to receive a charter in the New Jersey Conference) and the Orhpeus Social organized (which purchased the piano and recarpeted the church). He was pastor three years.

Rev. W. Gerges Moyer succeeded Mr. Snyder, in 1895. A

* Members at the present time.

parsonage was rented and furnished by the Ladies' Aid Society. The church building was still further enlarged the steeple added and the church repainted and recarpeted. During this year the streets surrounding the church were paved.

In 1896 Rev. E. C. Sunfield was sent to us, and for three and one-half years labored earnestly. During 1898 a modern brick parsonage was erected adjoining the church, and other improvements made on the property amounting to $4,000. In July, 1899, he made a transfer with Rev. J. C. Dodd, of Chestertown, Md., Wilmington Conference.

In 1901 Rev. F. A. De Maris was sent to us, and he labored effectively until March of 1908. In the fall of 1902 a forward movement was determined upon, and in May, 1903, the chapel building was removed to its present position, and ground broken for the new structure. The Building Committee consisted of Rev. F. A. De Maris, Barclay C. Bingham, William T. Propert, George L. Fox, Walter D. Gibbs, F. H. Cornelius and R. B. Simmerman. Work on the new temple progressed rapidly, and the structure, at a cost of nearly $30,000, was completed and dedicated January 24, 1904.

The pastorate of Rev. F. A. De Maris was uniformly successful. More than 450 members were received in the church during this period.

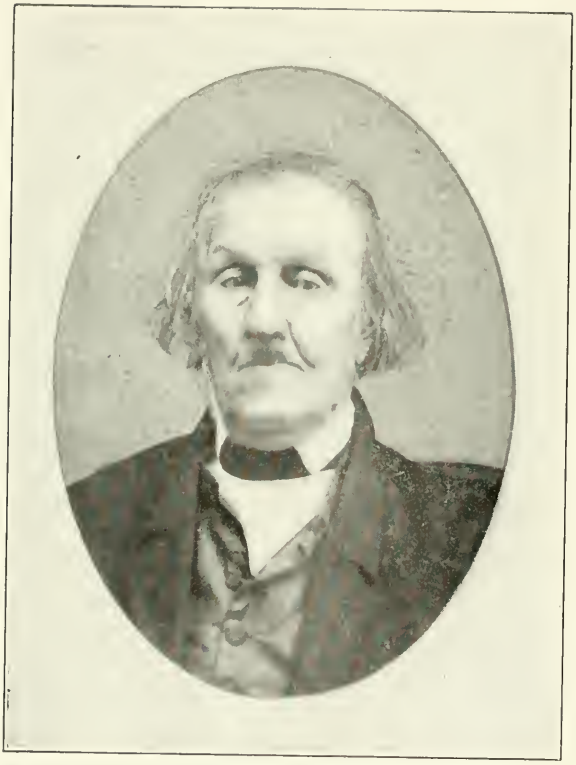
The church property at the present time is appraised conservatively at $50,000.

The Conference of 1908 assigned Rev. S. M. Vansant to this charge and for two years his labors were blessed of God in our midst.

STATE STREET M. E. CHURCH, 1909

REV. F. A. DE MARIS

REV. S. MONROE VAN SANT

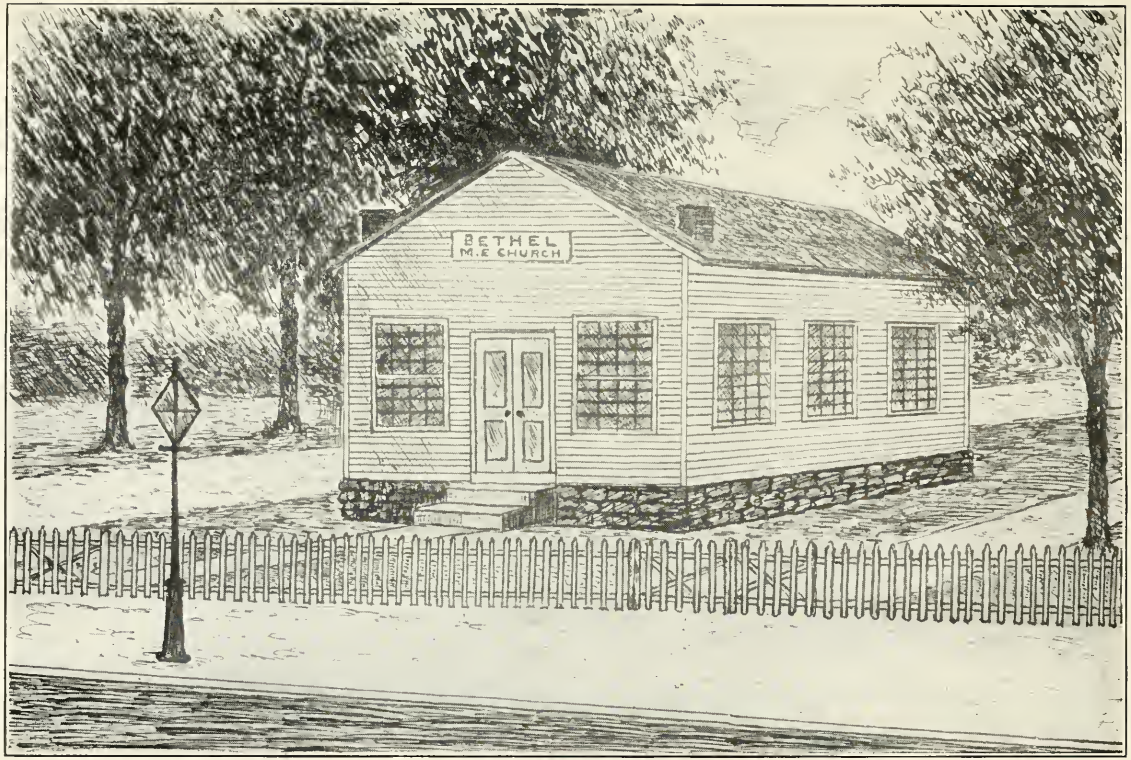


GEORGE HORN

HISTORY OF THE
Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church
OF CAMDEN, N J.

In the year 1813, George Horn, formerly of Camden, built the store house now standing at 32nd and Federal streets, Camden, then known as the Moorestown road. Soon after this, perhaps the same year, the Methodists from Camden by invitation of Mr. Horn, commenced holding meetings at his house. He was not then a member of church, but became such the following year. In the year 1815, a class was formed there and he was appointed the leader. There had been a class formed in the neighborhood some years before, either in a private house or in the old log school house nearby, standing on what is now known as the Amn Farm. This was led by John Peak of Stone Meeting House, but interest in it had ceased before the class was formed at Father Horn's. Among the local preachers and exhorters, who preached at his house, were Riley Barrett, Andrew Jenkins, David Duffel, and others from Camden, and somewhat later John S. Curtis, from near Haddonfield. Among the itinerant preachers who preached there were Rev. Sylvester Hill, Rev. Robert Sutton, (who came to fill a vacancy made by the death of Mr. Hill), Joseph Rusling, Joseph Lybrand, Daniel Fidler,

David Best, David Bailey, Jacob Gruber and Wesley Wallace. Father Boehm was on the circuit in 1827 and 1828. Also Ezekiel Cooper often came from Philadelphia and sometimes stayed over night there. These meetings were probably attended by George Horn, John Horn, William Carter, William Wilkins, John Hogan, Abraham M. Fisher, Zachariah Powell, Richard Ivins, John Shane, Sarah M. Starn, (Mrs. Isaac Browning), Sarah Morris, Prudence Horn (Mrs. A. M. Fisher), Sarah M. Dawson (Mrs. Josiah Starn), Abigail Horn and others. The meetings, growing in numbers and in interest, were continued at Father Horn's until about 1830, when, in order to have more room to accommodate several others who expressed a desire to attend meetings were commenced in the Union School House, a stone building erected in 1795 on the Burlington Road, five miles from Camden and only a few feet from where the brick school house now stands. The attendance was thereby increased by the addition of Joel Horner, Victor Spate, Isaac Browning, Benjamin H. Browning, George Haines, William and Maria Wilkins, Elizabeth Evaul and others. A class was formed and the local preachers from Camden and elsewhere preached on Sabbath days, and the itinerant preachers on week nights until about 1838, when they commenced preaching there on Sabbath mornings and at Moorestown in the afternoon. The circuit was at this time, say from 1838 to 1842, called Haddonfield circuit, then Moorestown Circuit. In 1858 Bethel was connected with Palmyra, and so continued until 1865, since which time, with the exception of a few years when it was connected with Pennville, it has stood as an appointment alone. It should be remembered that at this period in the history of the church the families, whose names are previously mentioned, were about the only residents in the territory lying between the Del-



BETHEL M. E. CHURCH

aware River, Pensauken and Cooper Creeks. The country was mostly grown up in forests, with only rough wagon roads leading to the city. Neighbors were sometimes miles distant, and the Union School House was the centre for the district.

We have no means of knowing the boundries of the old Burlington and Camden circuits, though we have reason to believe they were very large, but the Haddonfield Circuit included the following appointments: Coopertown, near where Beverly now stands; Bridgeboro, Asbury or Stone Meeting House, now Cinnaminson; Union School House, now Bethel; Moorestown, Hadodnfield, Greenland, Blackwoodtown, Longacoming, now Berlin; Waterford, Jackson, New Freedom and Gibbsboro.

There were only two preachers on those thirteen appointments, one or the other of whom preached once in two weeks at each place, the alternate Sabbaths being supplied by local preachers who did an excellent work in those days by seeking out new places and supplying weak appointments.

As to salary, the preacher in charge received from Three to Four Hundred Dollars per year, and the junior preacher being generally a single man, received One Hundred Dollars and boarded among the kind and hospitable families of his charge.

The preachers on the Haddonfield Circuit, commencing with 1838, were as follows: 1838 James Long and J. B. McKeever; 1839, J. Long and Wm. A. Brooks; 1840, Nathaniel Chew and S. Townsend; 1841 N. Chew and a supply; 1842 Edward Stout and C. A. Kingsbury; 1843 E.

Stout and a supply. Some of the presiding elders were as follows: from 1833 to 1837, R. W. Petherbridge; from 1838 to 1841 Thomas Neall, from1842 to 1844, Charles T. Ford. These men of God who looked after the various charges of the circuit laid the foundtion for good that Eternity alone can reveal. Their experiences were similar to those of Asbury and others, a record of which is found in the history of Methodism.

Under the pastorate of Rev. E. Stout, there was a revival resulting in the conversion of several persons. The membership now seemed sufficient to warrant the erection of a special building for church purposes, and at a public meeting held on February 11th, 1843, the society was organized under the name of Bethel M. E. Church and trustees elected as follows: George Horn, William Carter, John Horn, Joel Horner and John Hogan. A committee was appointed to secure a site for the erection of a church and burial ground, and on January 23rd, 1844, one acre of ground, now part of the Bethel Cemetery, was deeded by Abraham Browning to the trustees. On this site a frame building 32x46 feet was erected. The dedication services were held October 20th, 1844, the dedication sermon being preached by Rev. Scott. The building cost $998.67 and the furniture $87.50. On the day of dedication $230 was subscribed, the difference having been previously pledged.

The memory of the writer goes back to this building as he recalls it in later years, with its low foundation, low gable roof, small front step, entrance door in the centre, with a window on each side, windows being furnished with inside blinds. (When the Church was erected the windows were provided with outside shutters.) On the out-

side of the Church, standing near the entrance was an iron lamp post with an oil lamp. The furniture consisted of straight back pews, aisles separating the side seats from double row in the centre. The pulpit was an oblong box made out of inch boards, on each side of which was a pillar, made of the same material, on the top of which an oil lamp was placed. All the woodwork was painted white. The two seats on either side of the pulpit, in what the young people termed "The Amen Corner," were occupied by the older members. In each of the rear corners of the room a stove stood on a platform of sand. In the corner seats, (near stove), which had hinged fronts, were kept the library books of the Sunday School. These seats were a favorite place for the younger element, although a position near a stove, when the church was crowded, was anything but comfortable. In the earliest history of the church, the men were seated on one side, while the women occupied the other.

The burial ground was used even before the church was built, the first burial being that of John Hogan. It is said that when ground was purchased, Hogan remarked, "I wonder who will be the first person buried here."

In 1845 a fence was placed around the church property, and sheds for the accommodation of horses, erected at a cost of $340.25.

The lot of ground secured by the Trustees was not at right angles with the Burlington Road, and as additional ground was needed for burial purposes, one-half acre was also given by Abraham Browning to the Trustees, under date of February 1st, 1846, and in order to pay the im-

provement above referred to, burial lots 8x16 in size were sold at Five Dollars per lot.

When Bethel Church was attached to the circuit the members and others came from the extreme points to the quarterly meetings in some cases a distance of twelve to fifteen miles, and these were seasons of happy reunion and great spiritual profit. The love-feasts were indeed feasts to the soul, and the presiding elders preached with much interest and power. At the close of the service, it was expected that all would be entertained by the members of that church in which the meeting was held. Quarterly meeting was a day looked forward to with a great deal of interest, as a great friendship existed between members of the different churches and the greatest cordiality was shown whenever possible.

Rev. Stout was followed in 1846-47 by T. G. Stewart, a gray haired and good old man, under whose pastorate there was a great revival, and some of those converted at that time are prominent members to this day. So great was the interest manifested that persons walked from the territory now known as Red Hill on Cooper's Creek, three miles distant, to the church nightly. The meetings would continue until after midnight, and, the aisles being obstructed by penitents, persons wishing to leave the building would sometimes walk over the tops of the benches. So mighty was the religious fervor that some were physically exhausted and their friends were compelled to remain in the church with them for hours.

Following T. G. Stewart the pastors were: J. Loudenslager, 1848-49-50; Edward Page, 1851-52; L. Herr, 1853; C. K. Fleming, 1854-55. Under the pastorate of Brother

Fleming there was a noted revival, some converted at that time being honored members of the church at this writing.

In 1856 eight additional horse sheds were built and the church property repaired at a cost of $323.14. The minutes of this date show a balance of six dollars in the treasury.

The pastor of the Moorestown circuit in 1855-57, was L. J. Rhoads. The membership was as follows: Bethel 88; Bridgeboro, 64; Moorestown, 38; Asbury, 48; Palmyra, 26. At a quarterly conference held at Bridgeboro in 1856, at which Spate, Carter and Starn of Bethel were present, the salary of the preacher in charge is reported $458, and in 1858 there is a memorandum that Brother Rhoads received a salary for two years, including allowance for children, of $936. He reports the Sunday Sunday Schools in the circuit as being in a prosperous condition, "a general interest in the cause still prevailing." Palmyra was kept open through the winter but the others were closed. During this year the Circuit was ordered to raise $40 for superannuated preachers, and it was resolved that an assistant be procured for the circuit "a single man or one willing to work for a single man's salary. Rev. J. W. Donnelly was made assistant.

In 1858 the membership of the Circuit was 264, as follows; Bethel, 77; Asbury, 45; Palmyra, 52; Bridgeboro, 90. At this date Asbury and Bethel were out of debt. Bridgeboro owed one hundred dollars and three year's interest, and Palmyra was in debt to the extent of $1,638. The Sunday School of the district contained 299 scholars, 72 officers and teachers and 851 volumes in the libraries.

The Circuit was now relieved of the Moorestown, Asbury and Bridgeboro charges, and was known as the Palmyra circuit, and continued as such until Bethel became a separate appointment, in 1866.

The pastors of the Palmyra circuit were as follows: Samuel Parker, 1858-59; Rev. Sutcliffe, 1860-61; J. L. Corson, 1862-63. The salary of Brother Corson was $500. At the end of the year there was a surplus of $14.55, which by the unanimous vote of the Board was given him. Of the amount received, Bethel contributed $387 and Palmyra $127.55. The parsonage rent $60 was also paid by these churches in the same proportion. The Bethel membership consisted of 66, Palmyra 24; Sunday school scholars, Bethel 90, Palmyra 138; Volumes in library, Bethel 250, Palmyra 255; Church caluation, Bethel $2000, Palmyra $3000. The pastor was unable to visit the Bethel Sunday school during the entire year.

Under the pastorate of R. S. Harris in 1864-65, there was a gracious revival, eighty persons being received on probation. Palmyra and Bethel now became separate stations. The trustees in 1865 were as follows: William Carter, Victor Spate, John M. Stow, Isaac Browning, Josiah Starn, Charles Rudderow, and A. M. Fisher. The class leaders were William Carter, Victor Spate, Josiah Starn and David S. Stetson. Brother Stetson held a class in Merchantville, and in 1865 a building 32x48 feet, costing $3,000, was erected to accommodate same. During this year an additional tract of ground was purchased at Bethel from Thomas P. Clements, on which a very comfortable parsonage, costing about $3,000, was erected. The first pastor to occupy the new parsonage was Levi Larew (1866-1867.) During this latter year, in order that

the parsonage lot might be at right angles with the Burlington Road, an additional piece of ground, containing about one-half acre, was purchased from Albert Fish.

During the pastorate of Brother Larew, the Sunday school services, previously held in the morning, were changed to the afternoon.

T. D. Sleeper was pastor in 1868-69. In 1868, Chas. F. Shane founded the Sunday school at Pennville. A piece of ground was donated by Joseph Richmman, and a neat building was erected on same. Sunday School services were conducted here regularly for a few years, until the church became strong enough to pay for a supply. At this time, William Carter and others held prayer meeting in East Camden, of which, a few years later, the Dudley church (now Asbury) was the outgrowth. In 1869 an organ was placed in the church, although some of the members were opposed to music in the church. In order to accommodate the organ, a section was cut from the middle of the first seats in the double row, and the organist sat directly in front of the Pastor, facing the congregation. There is a resolution at this date to the effect that the congregation purposed meeting once a week to try and improve the music. The Ladies' Aid Society, organized at this time and continuing to this writing, has been a material help to the church.

In connection with the music, due credit should be given to the Misses Sheldrake, Cornelia Rudderow, Mary E. Wilkins, Viola Wilkins, Laura Fish, Emma Hogan, Idella Fish, and Mrs. Chas. Whitton, who, at much personal sacrifice and without pay, have acted as organists for the church.

Willis Reeves was pastor in 1870-1871, and 24 proba-

tioners were added to the church at this period through a revival.

Enoch Green was pastor in 1872-1873-1874. Pennville at this time was attached to the charge, that society having become too poor to support a pastor. Bethel suffered a serious loss in 1872 in the death of Rev. George Horn, aged 92 years. Father Horn was a man of decided Christian character and deep religious experience. He was class leader, exhorter, and later in life a local preacher filling a prominent place in the history of the church from its beginning until his death. His house was ever a welcome home for the ministers and all workers for Christ. In 1874, the death of Hannah Dover, an old and esteemed member, is recorded.

Bethel, in its early history, was famous for oyster suppers which it occasionally gave. The net profit from one held in 1872 was $534.39, and from another held in 1874, $368.73.

Under the pastorate of J. B. Turpin in 1875 there was a good revival.

M. C. Stokes was pastor in 1876-1877-1878. During his pastorate there is recorded the death of several prominent workers in the church. They are as follows: In 1876, Jacob Evaul and Mary Ann Fish; in 1878 Josiah Starn and Victor Spate. Jacob Evaul was for many years a Steward and worker in the church, and suitable resolutions were adopted by the Board of Stewards at his death. Mary Ann Fish, at her death, was the oldest member of the church and had been a Christian for fifty years. Josiah Starn was a Steward for many years, and a faithful

worker. His words to the pastor a few hours before his death were "All is right; not a doubt; I am so glad I gave my heart to God. Religion is everything to me." Victor Spate, a converted German, a man of excellent character and usefulness, had been a member of Bethel Church for forty years, and held the office of Trustee, Steward and Sunday School Superintendent. By his will, he bequeathed $500 to the church, which amount was expended in improvements and needed repairs. The Minutes of the church contain this record of him: "He was a good man, emphatically so. He loved the Church; he loved his Lord supremely and trusted Him with an unshaken confidence. He died as a Christian only dies, sweetly resting on Christ."

Under the pastorate of C. F. Garrison (1879-1880) there was a revival. During this period, Sabbath evening services were held only occasionally, and Brother Garrison saw the need of and recommended a new church building in order to attract the young people, who were attending Sabbath evening services elsewhere. At this time the new hymnal was introduced, as was also the envelope system for collection of Pastor's salary. In 1880 Elizabeth Plum, who had been a member of Bethel since 1872, died, at the age of 86 years, and Durbin W. Rudderow, a promising young member, was killed by a lightning stroke.

A. K. Street was pastor of the church in 1881, and at the annual conference that year delivered his address on "Fifty years in the Itineracy." During his pastorate the membership was 110, of which 54 were members of Chas. Rudderow"s class, and 56 members of Isaac Browning's class. A new church organ was purchased and services for the first time in the history of the church were held

on Thanksgiving Day. The Sunday School numbered 100 scholars with 15 teachers and officers. Casper Biedeman, a Steward and faithful member of the church, died, and Elizabeth Street, the wife of the pastor, for fifty years a church member and for forty-eight years in the itineracy died.

W. E. Greenbank was pastor in 1882-1883-1884, and under his pastorate the extensive revival of 1883, which began in the Sunday School, took place, and there were 48 probationers received. The necessity for a new church building was now more than ever apparent, and the congregation decided to build a new church, the corner stone of which was laid October 6th, 1884, Presiding Elder Graw and Rev. T. D. Sleeper assisting the pastor in the services. The new church, with its gothic windows, tower and bell, and comfortable seats, together with the added interest on the part of the young people, was the means of increasing the attendance at all services. The old church was moved and attached to the new church as an "L." A partition was built across one end of same, thus dividing the building into three rooms. The larger room was used for prayer meeting and Sunday School purposes. One of the smaller rooms was used for accommodation of the Primary Department, and the other for the Sunday School library. The cost of the new building and furniture was $6,200. Which was covered by subscription. The Church now numbered 110 members and the Sunday School 118. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society organized in the new church at this time has continued uninterruptedly since.

At the beginning of Socrates Townsend's pastorate, 1885-1886, Pennville was set off as a separate station. In

REV. W. E. GREENBANK

J. H. MAGEE

1886 is recorded the death of William Carter, in his 75th year, his wife preceded him in 1881. Brother Carter moved into the vicinity in 1832, being then about 22 years of age. He was earnest and faithful, and was soon appointed class leader at Union School House, and remained a class leader there and elsewhere for 35 years. He was one of the original trustees of the church and was for many years a Steward in same. In the latter years of his life he was totally blind. The church also suffered this year in the death of Peter C. Ross, an old and faithful member who in the earliest history of the church was Sunday School Superintendent and at his death was President of the Board of Trustees. In the old church he occupied the pew at the right of the pulpit, and with his cane, silk hat and bandanna handkerchief, was a familiar personage to all attending.

All the lots in the burial yard had for some years past been sold, and in order to enlarge the cemetery and provide lots for the many wishing to procure same, a tract of ground extending in a straight line from the back part of the cemetery to Cove Road was purchased and laid out in cemetery lots.

Under the pastorate of J. H. Magee, 1887-1888-1889, a Sunday School was organized at Delair, with two teachers and fifteen scholars, under the leadership of Mrs. Long. Brother Magee was popular with the young people. The Sunday morning congregation numbered 70 and 80. 21 probationers were received in 1888, several being from Pennville.

J. H. Magee was followed by H. J. Conover, 1890-91. In 1890 the Annual Conference of Trenton District Woman's

Foreign Missionary Society was held at Bethel. Epworth League Chapter 5629 was organized, but existed only a short time, as the young people did not appear to be interested in same. The old pews, which had been placed in the Lecture Room when the new church was built, were now removed, the room recarpeted and furnished with chairs. Delair Sunday School was now self supporting and separated from Bethel.

E. J. Lippincott was pastor in 1892-1893. During his pastorate, and for some time previous, notwithstanding the good work of the pastors in charge, the membership of the church and Sunday School decreased in numbers. The congregations were small and the class and prayer meetings poorly attended. It should be remembered that the church was located in a farming community, the members were widely scattered and in most cases had to drive to church. With churches at Merchantville, Pennville, Delair and Dudley, it was more convenient for the Bethel members to attend another Methodist Church than their own. Many of the younger people, the sons of farmers, had married and moved from the community, and there were no others to take their places. The Rosedale section was improving quite rapidly, and there was talk of organizing a new Methodist church at that point. A crisis in the history of the church had now been reached, and after mature deliberation, at a congregational meeting held April 1st, 1893, it was resolved to move that part of the church erected in 1884 to Rosedale, and the lot at 39th and Westfield avenue, on which the church now stands, was secured, 21 persons voted for the removal while 16 voted against it. Of those voting against the proposition but 5 were church members. The expense incurred in moving and repairing church was $1700, $115 of this amount

was pledged before the trustees gave their sanction to the project. The contractor was three weeks moving the church, and during this time the members of the committee took turns in making roads and in guiding teams past the building at night. The Church was reopened September 10th, 1893, on which date subscriptions amounting to $1,000 were received. The attendance in the new location, especially in the evening, was large as compared with the 10 to 12 attending evening service before the church was moved. Mrs. E. Horner was Sunday School Superintendent, and the attendance at the first Sunday School service at Rosedale was 92. Because the church was moved, ten members took their certificates, but 13 probationers were received, others joined later, and the membership has been steadily growing since. Epworth League Chapter No. 11374 was organized December 13th, 1893 with J. Newlin Wilkins as President. During this year is recorded the death of Hannah Pedigree and Rachel Amon. The Cemetery accounts were now separated from those of the church, and J. N. Wilkins elected assistant treasurer, which position he still holds.

The semi-centennial of the church was observed September 16th, 1894 with an appropriate program. Under the pastorate of Wm. Margerum a new parsonage was built on the lot adjoining the church, and a Junior Epworth League was organized, with Mrs. J. N. Wilkins, Superintendent. An official Board was organized, separate meetings being previously held by the Board of Trustees and Board of Stewards. The number of Trustees was also increased from 7 to 9, with terms of 3 members expiring each year. The membership of the church again suffered by the withdrawal of some of its members to join St. George's Church, now erected, and the pastor's

report at end of Conference year shows but 68 members and 6 probationers.

J. B. Whitton was pastor in 1895-1896-1897-1898. He was popular with the young people, and a Bible study class, under his leadership, was largely attended. A revival spirit was manifest throughout his pastorate, and 40 probationers were received in full connection. Additional room for Sunday School purposes had been needed from the first service held after the church was moved and in order to accommodate same, (the average attendance now being 108), a building 15x28 was added to the church and used for the Primary department. The cost of the building, including recarpeting of the church, was $1,000, which amount was all subscribed when building was ready for occupancy in February, 1896.

H. A. Cranmer died in 1896, Edwin Powell in 1897, and Benjamin C. Beideman in 1898. H. A. Cranmer was a member of the Board of Trustees, and Edwin Powell a faithful member of the church. Benjamin C. Beideman had been connected with the church since 1887. Of his life the Minutes of the Board of Trustees contained this record, "If his first thought was for his family, his second was for his church. His counsel was wise, his bearing gentle." He was president of the Board of Trustees at his death, and in his will bequeathed $400 to the church, which amount was applied to the reduction of the $1,500 mortgage on the parsonage. In 1897, improvements at the Cemetery, consisting of an iron fence and a granite entrance, were provided from Cemetery funds, at a cost of $400; Rules and Regulations for the government of cemetery adopted, and a Trust Fund for the perpetual care of the cemetery organized.

REV. J. B. WHITTON

G. E. Hancock was pastor in 1899, J. F. Cordova in 1900-1901, and J. S. Parker in 1902. Probationers were received under Hancock, 9 under Cordova, and 6 under Parker. In 1902 is recorded the death of George Pedigree, one of the oldest members of the church.

The pastor in 1903-1904 was J. W. Presby, Ph. D. The finances of the church now warranted an increase in the pastor's salary of $100. In 1903 is recorded the death of Abraham M. Fisher, Lemuel D. Horner and Mrs. J. N. Wilkins.

A. M. Fisher held many responsible offices in the church during his long membership and died at the age of 81 years. Lemuel D. Horner was a Steward of the church and died at the age of 72 years. Mrs. J. N. Wilkins (Kate O. Amon) lived on this earth for 33 years, the same number as did Jesus, and following "In His Steps", went about doing good. She was President of the Junior Epworth League and a teacher in the Sunday School for many years. In 1904, George H. Amon, an honored member of the church and of the Board of Trustees, died.

Extensive improvements, consisting of frescoing, painting, new carpet, gas and electric lights, costing $1200, were made in 1904. The reopening and the 60th anniversary were observed in September, at which time subscriptions covering the entire amount were received.

In 1905 is recorded the death of A. Lousia Amon, 58 years of age. Mrs. Amon was an active member of the church and is greatly missed. Appropriate resolutions concerning her life and work, appear on the Minutes of the Ladies' Aid Society and Epworth League. Mrs. Amon

bequeathed the sum of $300 to the church, which amount was expended for a new organ (greatly needed) and a memorial tablet placed on same.

George D. Senser, who came in 1905, is pastor at the present writing. In 1906 Robert Smith, an old and esteemed member of the church, passed away, and in 1907 occurred the death of Merritt Hinchman, for many years a member of the Board of Trustees. Under the pastorate of Brother Senser has been organized an Usher's Union, with 17 members, and a White Shield League with 80 members. Two additional classes have also been organized, one led by Elijah Eldridge on Tuesday evenings, and the other by the pastor on Sabbath afternoons. Chas. Rudderow continues his Sunday morning class, the class that has been in existence so many years. Chas. D. Whitton is Superintendent of the Sunday School, the enrollment of which is 200, and the average atendance 110. Amon S. Flowers is President of the Epworth League, now numbering 61 members, and Mrs. Wm. B. Truckess is President of the Junior Epworth League numbering 60 members. The Church has 179 members in full connection and 4 probationers. Of these 179 members, 160 have joined the church since it was moved to its present location. The 18 members who were connected with the church before it was moved are as follows: Ruthanna Beideman, Josephine Beideman, Mary A. Cranmer, Emma Horner, Minnie R. Horner, Benajah and Anna Horner, Sarah Hinchman, Sussanna Hogan, Adalissa Hogan, Jane Powell, William and Mary Powell, Charles and Rebecca Rudderow, Ezra and Anna Wallace, and J. Newlin Wilkins. 65 members have been added to the church under present pastorate. The finances are in excellent condition. Salary of pastor has been increased $100, and the balance

REV. GEO. G. SENSER

of $600 remaining on $1,500 parsonage mortgage has been raised and mortgage burned, thus leaving church property entirely free from debt. In this connection it might be said that no mortgage has ever been placed on the church itself—only on parsonage.

Thus Bethel, the mother of Methodism in that section of Camden County lying between Cooper's Creek and the Burlington County line continues along the conservative course it has always followed; steadily growing spiritually as well as materially it is destined to become a great church in the growing section of Camden in whch it is now located.

The writer has endeavored to give an impartial history of the church, and may possibly have omitted recording some important facts, or the death of members holding official positions. The facts contained in this history have been gathered from various sources and he has done the best he could with the material at his command.

J. NEWLIN WILKINS.

Camden, N. J., January 1909.

PASTORS OF BETHEL M. E. CHURCH.

Haddonfield Circuit:—1838, James Long and J. B. McKeever; 1839, J. Long and Wm. A. Brooks; 1840, Nathaniel Chew and S. Townsend; 1841, Nathaniel Chew and Supply; 1842, Edward Stout and C. A. Kingsbury; 1843, Edward Stout and Supply.

Haddonfield Circuit—Coopertown (Beverly), Bridgboro

(Cinnaminson), Union School (Bethel), Moorestown, Haddonfield, Greenland, Blackwoodtown, Longacoming (Berlin), Waterford, Jackson, New Freedom, Gibbsboro.

2 preachers and 13 appointments.

The salary $300 to $400; assistant, $100 and board.

Moorestown Circuit:—1846-47, T. G. Stewart; 1848-49, J. Loudenslager, 1850, Moore; 1851-52; Edward Page; 1853, L. Herr; 1854-55, C. K. Fleming; 1856-57, L. J. Rhoads.

The membership of Moorestown Circuit in 1856-57 was as follows: Bethel, 88; Bridgeboro, 64; Moorestown, 38; Asbury, 48; Palmyra, 36.

Presiding elders:—1833-37, R. W. Petherbridge; 1838-41, Thos. Neall; 1842-44, Chas. G. Ford.

Palmyra Circuit:—1858-59, Samuel Parker; 1860-61, Suteliffe; 1862-63, J. L. Corson.

Bethel as a separate station:—1864-65, R. S. Harris; 1866-67, Levi Larew; 1868-69, T. D. Sleeper; 1870-71, Willis Reeves; 1872-3-4, Enoch Green; 1875, J. B. Turpin; 1876-7-8, M. C. Stokes; 1879-80, C. F. Garrison; 1881, A. K. Street; 1882-3-4, W. E. Greenbank; 1885-6, Socrates Townsend; 1887-8-9, J. H. Magee; 1890-91, H. J. Conover; 1892-3,E. J. Lippincott; 1894, Wm. Margerum; 1895-6-7-8, J. B. Whitton; 1899, G. E. Hancock; 1900-01, J. F. Cordova; 1902, J. S. Parker; 1903-4, J. H. Presby, Ph. D.; 1905-6-7-8, George G. Senser.

Sunday School Superintendents:—1859-65, Wm. Carter;

J. Newlin Wilkins Benajah A. Horner John D. Dudley George Grenhart Charles D. Whitten
Mrs. Myrtle B. Trucksess Mrs. George G. Senser Ezra Wallace Walter S. Megronigle
Amos S Flowers Charles Rudderow Rev. George G. Senser William B. Powell

BETHEL OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

BETHEL, M. E. CHURCH. 1909

1866-68, Peter C. Ross; 1869, Isaac Browning; 1870-74, Victor Spate; 1875-78, Wm. Southwood; 1879-80, Samuel H. Fish; 1881, Wm. H. Wilkins; 1882-83, Mrs. Emma Horner; 1884-94, Joseph H. Fisher; 1895-96, James A. Clarke; 1897, Mrs. E. Horner; 1898-1905, John H. Dudley; 1906-1909, Charles D. Whitton.

HISTORY OF THE

St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

The first record of a movement to organize this church was a call dated November 4th, 1893 and signed by William Horn, for all persons interested in having a new Methodist Episcopal Church in South Rosedale to meet on Tuesday night, November 14, 1893, at his residence, Thirty second and Federal streets. The meeting was held according to the call and was opened with prayer by Joseph H. LeChard and J. Howard Kirkbride. On motion of Joseph H. LeChard, J. Howard Kirkbride was made Chairman and John W. Dixon, Secretary. Brother LeChard moved to elect seven Trustees, which they did by ballot, James Edwards and Lewis S. Kates acting as Tellers. William Horn, James Edwards, Charles Wentzell, Joseph H. LeChard, Lewis S. Kates, John W. Dixon, and J. Howard Kirkbride were duly elected as Trustees for a new Methodist Episcopal Church to be organized and edifice to be erected on Benson street (now called Mickle street) between Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth streets, South Rosedale. Hannah Ross offered to donate

one thousand dollars in cash, and the lot on which the church now stands, which the Board accepted and offered her the privilege of naming the church. She said she gave the one thousand dollars cash as a memorial to her father, George Horn, and modestly asked that the church should bear his name.

The Board of Trustees organized by electing J. Howard Kirkbride, President; John W. Dixon, Secretary, and Lewis S. Kates, Treasurer. The Building Committee appointed consisted of J. Howard Kirkbride, William Horn, John W. Dixon, James Edwards and Lewis S. Kates. J. Howard Kirkbride was ordered to have the ground surveyed and the deed executed. The minutes state that when this meeting adjourned a very spiritual prayer meeting was held.

At the next meeting, which was held on December 15, 1893 at the home of J. Howard Kirkbride, papers of incorporation were signed under the name of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church of South Rosedale, New Jersey. Plans and specifications were examined and adopted, and the contract to build the Church was awarded to S. B. Steelman for $5,200.00. This was for the building above the basement. The furniture, lights, heating, windows, etc., cost $3,400 making the total cost of the church building $8,600.00, to which we add an estimate of $4,000 for the spacious grounds, bringing the total value of the property up to $12,600. Against this property the original indebtedness was about $6,700, which was in the form of a Trustees' note held by the National State Bank of the City of Camden. This note was carried for about nine years at a cost of over $400 per year. In June 1900 sister Hannah

Ross, who was then 84 years old, gave a deed to the Trustees for the remainder of her property, conditioned on an annuity to be paid her during the rest of her natural life and the payment of her burial expenses. December 8th, 1901, Mrs. Ross died, when the conditions of the annuity ceased, and the Trustees having fulfilled their part of the contract, came into possession of real estate from which they realized $3,000. By this means, together with the sale of some building lots, the debt was reduced to the sum of $2,900.00 and a mortgage negotiated at five per cent interest in the Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company, thus reducing the expense of interest from $400 to $145 per annum. In 1904, during the pastorate of Rev. William Stone, a handsome parsonage was erected at a cost of $3,000 on which there stands a mortgage of $1,600 In the present year 1908, 1909, $500 has been raised by subscription and paid on the Church mortgage, reducing it to $2,400. St. George's Church thus has a property today worth more than $15,600 against which there is a total indebtedness of $4,000.

In the early days, in order to carry the large debt and pay the running expenses (the interest and discount on the note alone amounted to $3,000 in seven years) many heroic sacrifices were made by the small band of faithful members.

The church organized with thirty on the roll of membership and at the end of the seventh year pastor G. W. Finlaw reported 57 members and eight probationers. At the close of Rev. G. W. Finlaw's administration there were eighty-four members and seven probationers. At the close Rev. William Stone's administration there were 123 members and 8 probationers. At the close of Rev. W.

REV. W. E. LAKE

REV. GEORGE W. FINLAW, D. D.

Elwell Lake's pastorate there were 162 members and 17 probationers.

LIST OF PASTORS.

J. Howard Kirkbride, appointed in March 1894, served until the church was dedicated, September 23, 1894.

Rev. W. L. Shaw, served from September 23, 1894, to March, 1895.

Rev. D. E. Lyon, served from March, 1895, to August, 1895.

Rev. J. R. Greer served from November, 1895, to March, 1896.

Rev. E. S. Wells served from March, 1896, to August, 1896.

Rev. J. Manlove Smith served from September, 1896, to November, 1897.

Lewis Z. Noble (exhorter) served from November, 1897, to March, 1898.

Rev. Joseph Eldredge served from April 1898, to September, 1898.

Rev. George W. Finlaw, D. D., served from December, 1898, to March 1902.

Rev. W. I. Reed served from March, 1902, to March, 1904.

Rev. William Stone served from March, 1904, to March, 1906.

Rev. W. Elwell Lake, B. A., served from March, 1906, to March, 1909.

In November, 1897, Rev. Manlove Smith, having resigned, Presiding Elder Rev. D. B. Harris, by unanimous vote of the Official Board granted to brother L. Z. Noble license to exhort and placed him in full charge of the pul-

pit from that time until Conference. It should be stated that the local brethren of Camden came to the Church's assistance and from that time (November, 1897) until Conference, about nineteen weeks, the total expense of pulpit supply amounted to two dollars. New life also at this time came to the struggling and almost desperate congregation by substantial financial aid from the Camden City Church Extension Society. During the five months of Brother Noble's administration the following local brethren gave their services without charge:

Rev. D. B. Green, J. T. Wilde, Charles Tushingham, Dr. Collins, W. Lester, Rev. James A. Smith, Edwin S. Hann, C. T. Fisler, C. Butterworth, George Powell, Rev. Charles Mills, J. E. Simpson, John Newkirk, Atwood Leifert, Charles Bowden, Rev. Milton S. Nichols and Harry S. Springer. Our honored and beloved brother Rev. Dr. S. E. Post, now senior member of the New Jersey Conference, lived then in Rosedale and gave us much encouragement. In other ways were assisted also by Rev. Charles Butler, Miss Josie B. Hillman, now Superintendent of the Holloway Deaconess Home, Bridgeport, Ohio, and brother George C. Baker and Charles P. Boyer.

September, 1898, found us again without a pastor, when Rev. G. W. Finlaw, D. D., came to our rescue and filled the pulpit until Conference. He was then appointed by the Elder and supplied the charge for three years. Too much cannot be said in commendation of our dear brother Finlaw, who, by his Christian life, and goodness of heart endeared himself to all, and during those three years laid a sure foundation for St. George's future.

The following brothers have served as Sunday School

ST. GEORGE'S M. E. CHURCH, 1909

George W. Davis E. W. Dixon F. F. Hawk
Hector Williams Wm. Smith L. Z. Noble Joseph Fisher B. S. Hewett
Mrs. Wm. Jeffreys Mrs. Wm. Watt Miss Mary Lake Joseph Vickers
William Watt Rev. W. Elwell Lake Charles Wentzell

ST. GEORGE'S OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

Superintendents: J. Howard Kirkbride, 1894, 1895; William Hewett, 1895, 1901; Lewis Z. Noble, 1901, 1904; Philip Y. Quinn, 1904, 1905; George H. Davis, 1905, 1909. The present enrollment of the school is 232 and is growing weekly.

The Church is completely organized in every department, having a Ladies' Aid Society, which has given invaluable assistance to the Church from its foundation. The Epworth League, both Senior and Junior, in flourishing activity. Ushers' Union, Young Ladies' Social Circle, Ladies Auxiliary of the Collingswood Methodist Home, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and three religious classes, besides the children's class. The Class Leaders have been J. H. Kirkbride, J. L. Stanton, William Watt, Charles Wentzell, George W. Day, Mary E. Lake and Pastor W. Elwell Lake.

Among the long faithful members of the Church should be noted B. S. Hewett, T. Francis Hawk, Mrs. Charles Wentzell and daughters Almeda LeChard, Mrs. Beulah Sheldrick and Mrs. Joseph Vickers.

The Official Board stands at the present time as follows:

Pastor, Rev. J. H. Magee, appointed March, 1909.

Trustees—William Watt, Benj. S. Hewett, J. O. Grear, T. Francis Hawk, Charles Wentzell, Edward T. Evans, Joseph Fisher, Wm. Craig, Joseph Vickers.

Stewards—Benj. S. Hewett, Wm. Watt, Joseph Vickers, W. A. Smith, J. O. Grear, W. W. Fithian, Estelle Dixon, Edward T. Evans, Hector Williams.

Exhorters—Lewis Z. Noble, Captain George W. Day.

Leaders—Wm. Watt, Captain George W. Day, Mary E. Lake, W. Elwell Lake.

Sunday School Superintendent, George H. Davis.

President Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Tabitha Watt.

President Epworth League, Earl Wilkins.

Superintendent Junior League, Mrs. Sallie Jefferys.

During the last two pastorates the Church has been emerging from its period of discouragement and struggle, and is now on a fair way to great service for Christ and Methodism. A steady growth in membership, a unifying of interests, a strong esprit de corps, an unselfish devotion to the welfare of the Church, a hopeful, happy and expectant spirit, a sound and strengthening spirituality, constant refreshing and blessing from the Great Head of the Church are among the signs which encourage us to believe that the Master is pleased with our efforts and has greater victories for us in the future than have even been dreamed of in the past.

Rev. W. ELWELL LAKE,
LEWIS Z. NOBLE,
T. FRANCIS HAWK,
CHARLES WENTZEL,
Committee.

HISTORY OF THE

Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN, N. J.

This church was organized in a tent on the lot where now stands the church building, September 17th, 1894, by Rev. D. B. Harris, Presiding Elder of Camden District, Rev. J. B. Wescott and Rev. J. F. Shaw also being present. Original organization consisted of twenty-nine members and twenty-five probationers. George W. Ridout was appointed pastor.

The first Board of Trustees were elected October 2nd, 1894, in Wright's Hall. The First quarterly conference was held, October 13th, 1894. At a meeting of the church held in Wright's Hall, October 10th, 1894, it was unanimously decided, first, that a church be erected immediately, second, that the Trustees constitute the building committee, third, that three lots of land be secured.

On the evening of October 22nd in the presence of quite an assembly of people, ground was broken for a church edifice. Rev. J. B. Westcott, pastor of Dudley M. E. Church, formally broke the ground, while the people sang, "Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow."

In the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day, November 29th 1894, the corner stone was laid by Rev. D. B. Harris, Presiding Elder. Rev. Dr. Marshall, Pastor of Centenary M. E. Church, Camden, made the address. Rev. J. B. Wescott and Rev. J. F. Shaw, also assisted.

Sunday, January 13th, 1895 services were held for the first time in the new church. The formal opening of the new church took place Sunday, February 3rd, 1895, Rev. Dr. Moffett of Camden, officiating.

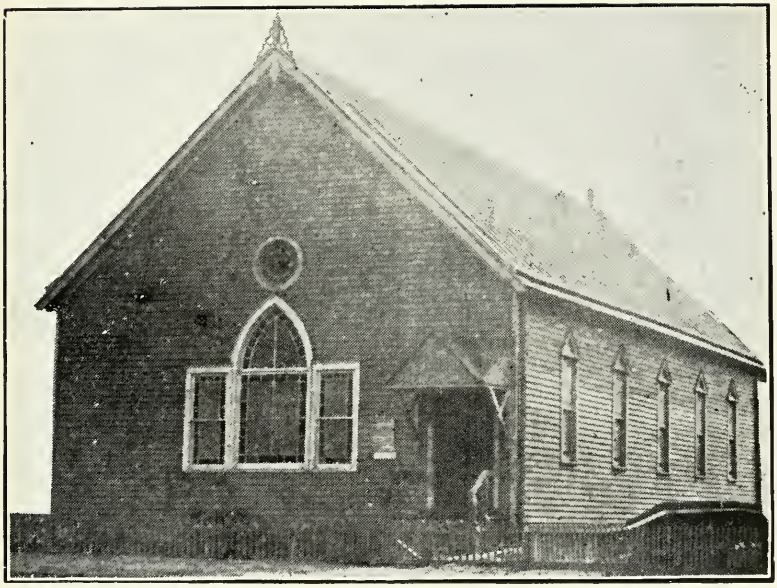
The church was incorporated October 13th, 1894. Articles of incorporation were received and recorded by the County Clerk, November 2nd, 1894.

The following pastors have served the church: Geo. W. Ridout, September 17th, 1894 to March 14, 1897. He was followed by Rev. Geo. D. Thompson, who gave himself to the work with a fervency unsurpassed in its spirit of self sacrifice and zeal, which was not for a moment relinquished until disease had fastened itself on him and he was compelled to give up his work. After months of intense suffering he passed from labor to reward, September 1898. Of him it can be truly said, "He rests from his labors and his works do follow him." He was succeeded by Edward A. Wells, then a local preacher in the Tabernacle Church of Camden, whose pastorate extended over the period from, September 19th, 1898 to March 12th, 1901 Then Joseph T. Wilde, another local preacher of Tabernacle, became pastor and served the church form March 12th, 1901 to March 14th, 1905. He was succeeded by Wm. K. Fisher, the present pastor.

During the present pastorate plans have been laid and

REV. WM. K. FISHER

REV. GEO. W. RIDOUT
First Pastor of Wesley M. E. Church



WESLEY M. E. CHURCH, 1895

WALTER DILL MRS. KATE SEWALL E. W. NIXON MRS. FLOISE MacELWELL FRIEND MAPES
JOSEPH L. BACON HARRY D. BROOKS T. H. WHITFORD MRS. MAGGIE HICKMAN BENJ. TODD REUBEN PLUM

WESLEY OFFICIAL BOARD, 1909

consummated for the complete renovation of the church property. Last fall a new heater was placed in the church at a cost of $90.00 and paid for. A new tin roof has been placed on the building; the church has been painted outside (two coats); the walls and ceiling inside have been calcimined; all the wood work has been painted and varnished; the Primary Department of the Sunday School has purchased small chairs for the children of its department; the small room of the church has been fitted up for a prayer meeting room by having a suitable platform and chancel placed in position and the aisles carpeted; the sliding doors between the audience room and the primary room have been cut in two and lower part made stationary, and glass has taken the place of wooden panels in the upper parts, which are movable; the pulpit and aisles of the main audience room have been covered with Brussels carpet by the Ladies' Aid Society.

Under the present pastor's administration Rev. Howard Amer was licensed to preach and after having served supply appointments in the New Jersey Conference, took up the work in Colorado. The Rev. Burton J. K. Way, was also licensed to preach and is now doing supply work in our conference. Wesley Bright, recently licensed as an exhorter is now a student at Pennington Seminary preparing for the ministry.

Rev. G. W. Ridout and Rev. E. S. Wells, both of whom have gained wide reputation in holiness circles are very successful members of the New Jersey Conference.

The Quarterly Conference of the church is constituted as follows: Rev. Wm. K. Fisher, Pastor; Wesley Bright, Exhorter; Stewards, Joseph Bacon, Benjamin Todd, Mrs.

Kate Sewall, Mrs. M. Hickman; Recording Steward, Miss Stella C. Sewall; Trustees, Reuben Plum, Benjamin Todd, Joseph Bacon, Harry D. Brooks; Epworth League President, E. W. Nixon; Junior League Superintendent, Mrs. Eloise MacElwell; Financial Secretary, Harry Bright; Treasurer, Miss Stella C. Sewall; Class Leaders Friend Mapes, Walter Dill.

HISTORY OF THE

Home for the Aged and Infirm of the Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CAMDEN COUNTY, N. J.

The Home for the Aged and Infirm of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, was incorporated February 3, 1890. It was formally opened April 15, 1890. It was furnished complete at 531 York street, Camden, N. J., with Auxiliaries from eight churches, as follows: Centenary, Tabernacle, Third Street, Broadway, Wiley, Union, Haddonfield and Gloucester M. E. Churches. Mr. Wm. T. Bailey of Centenary M. E. Church, donated the rent, amounting to $20 per month, toward the fund for a permanent building. During the first year nine old ladies became members of the Home.

The officers were:—President, Mrs. David Baird; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Daniel Erdman, Mrs. John Gourley; Recording Secretary, Miss Lida Mayhew; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. S. Baer; Treasurer, Miss Harriet N. King; Matron, Mrs. Townsend.

Board of Trustees—President, George Danenhower; Secretary, John T. Seymour; Treasurer, Frank S. Wells; Dr. A. E. Street, James R. Carson, Joseph E. Roberts, A. D. Geiger, Richard T. Collings, B. Plummer.

On June 23rd, Mr. E. C. Knight, of Collingswood, tendered a lot on Haddon avenue on which the Home now stands, 160 feet front on Haddon avenue by 385 feet in depth, and at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held August 14, 1890, the offer of Mr. Knight was gratefully accepted, and an agreement made to purchase thirty feet additional on the front and of same depth from Mr. Knight for the sum of $600. Twenty feet was afterward dedicated as part of a 50 ft. street, now Zane avenue, leaving 190 ft. front on Haddon avenue. Much of the success which has thus far attended the Home is due, under the blessing of God, to the indefatigable efforts of the President of the Board of Managers, Mrs. David Baird.

During the second year the following churches became interested and appointed Auxiliaries: Collingswood, Kaighn Avenue, Bethany, Wiley, and State Street, making thirteen in all. On July 9, 1891, the corner stone of the Home at Collingswood was laid by Bishop Cyrus D. Foss, after an eloquent address. The services were in charge of Rev. Milton Relyea, Presiding Elder of Camden District. The dedication took place on Thursday, October 22, 1891, at 3 P. M. The services being in charge of Presiding Elder Rev. Milton Relyea, and the dedication service, arranged by himself, was read by Rev. J. L. Sooy.

On August 29, 1897, the Home met with a great loss in the death of the President of the Board of Managers, Mrs. Christianna Baird, whose active efforts from the first

inception of the Home, and hopeful spirit have been an inspiration to all who came in contact with her. Her mantel has fallen on her daughter, Mrs. Mary Baird Fox.

Finding the Home inadequate for the demands made upon it, at a joint meeting of the Boards of Trustees and Managers, held at First M. E. Church, on October 28, 1909, it was decided to enlarge the capacity of the Home by building an addition in front of the old building to contain a chapel and twenty-six rooms. Plans were drawn by Thomas Stephens, architect, and on January 28, 1910, a contract was made with Jas. W. Draper to build the addition for the sum of $18,962.50. A supplemental contract afterward being made for enlargement of kitchen at an additional cost of $450, the work to be completed in three months. At this writing plans have been made to relay the corner stone, which was removed from the old building. The service to be in charge of Rev. Sanford M. Nichols, District Superintendent of Camden District, and the corner stone to be laid on June 2, 1910, by Bishop Luther B. Wilson.

The present Board of Trustees is as follows: President, Thomas Hollinshed; Secretary, Frank S. Warren; Treasurer and Solicitor, H. Graham Bleakly; Preston D. Hughes, D. P. Fries, Harry L. Swyler, John Simpson, Frank D. Ellis, R. H. Robbins.

Board of Managers: President, Mrs. Mary Baird Fox; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Elizabeth Goorley, Mrs. Susie M. Wells; Recording Secretary, Mrs. L. Mayhew Allbright; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ida B. Cooper; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Maggie Briggs; Treasurer, Mrs. Sarah E. Phillips; Matron, Miss Sarah A. Mayers.

The Centennial Celebration of Camden Methodism.

Methodism though the youngest Protestant Evangelical Denomination is by far the largest in numerical strength. There have been several Centennial celebrations in her history that has brought her prominently to the front of the ecclesiastical world, and thus it has been clearly demonstrated: "What hath God wrought!"

In 1839 the world had its eyes opened to a great achievement in the religious realm through the agency of a man. Just 100 years before this date while listening to the reading of Luther's Preface to the Epistle of Paul to the Romans, in Aldersgate street in London, John Wesley felt his "heart strangely warmed." He then knew that,

> "The Spirit answered to the blood,
> And told him he was born of God."

It was like a fire shut up in his bones, and while he was musing over this matter his heart burned. Then he did speak with his tongue and in unmistakable terms:

> "He did tell to sinners round,
> What a blessed Saviour he had found."

When the centennial of that event arrived a resume of that history convinced the world that, "there was a man sent from God whose name was John Wesley," to found a society whose chief business it is to spread Scriptural holiness over the world. And so clear was it then that this organization was fulfilling this mission that everywhere it was admitted that this regiment of the Lord's Army was forging its way to the very front of the battle.

In 1866 another centennial revealed the potency of Methodism in America. A century before, the Holy Spirit inspired Barbara Heck and Philip Embury to inaugurate a movement that, in the language of Abraham Lincoln, "sent more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the hospitals and more prayers to heaven than any other church." Hence the Century of American Methodism revealed the significance of this denomination in the life of our republic.

In 1884 the centennial of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church again called the attention of the world to the great progress of this band of "laborers together with God." At the Christmas Conference at Baltimore, Md., in 1784 God moved upon the hearts of the delegates there assembled to organize their society into a mighty ecclesiastical factor which should ever thereafter be known as the Methodist Episcopal church. The effective work of this organized society for that century revealed the wisdom of the organizers and also the guiding hand of Divine Providence.

While these are centennials of General Methodism, that have had universal consideration, nevertheless, Methodism has had her Local Centennials that very clearly has shown the guiding hand of God.

When the Official Board of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Camden, N. J., began to think of the near approach of the completion of the first 100 years of Methodist History in this city, plans were at once laid for a fitting celebration of this important event. The first thought was that this should be inaugurated by a session of the New Jersey Annual Conference in the Mother Church. Rev. Richard Sneath, having organized the first class in April 1809, it became apparent that a session of the Conference in March 1909 would be both appropriate and timely. It having been learned that Broadway was about to invite the New Jersey Conference to meet in her church March 1908, the Mother Church asked this daughter in view of the coming Centennial of Methodism in 1909, if she would kindly forego the pleasure of having a session of the Conference and thus permit the Mother Church to have that session upon the completion of her first century. Thus, this splendid daughter, Broadway, immediately and very heartily acquiesced in the Mother's plan.

Consequently on Thursday evening of the Conference session a Centennial service was held. The large auditorium was taxed to the utmost capacity. The former pastors of the church had seats on the platform and participated in the service. The music by the choir was indeed very finely rendered and very gratefully appreciated. Mr. Wm. A. Colescott who had been the general in leading the forces whereby the debt of First Church, had been completely wiped out, made the first speech. He spoke upon the topic: "How We Did It." And as he detailed the plan and told of the execution of the same, the hearts of the people became so enthusiastic that fervent "Amens" were heard. Bishop Luther B. Wilson, D. D.,

the President of the Conference made the Centennial Address. He was indeed the man for the occasion. The Bishop, always good in speech, clear in statement and fervent in utterance, according to universal testimony excelled himself on this occasion. Then Rev. John Handley, D. D., who for five years, from 1886 - 1891, had been pastor of the church was called upon to speak on, "The Centennial Evangelistic Note." Despite the fact that the Bishop, by his eloquence had swept everything before him and that it seemed impossible to hold the audience to hear anyone else speak, nevertheless, Dr. Handley at once got hold of the audience and they hung upon the message of his lips. Thus ended this First Centennial Service with hearts overflowing with joy, mouths filled with laughter and tongues speaking in praise to God for a 100 years of great achievement.

It having been the custom of the Mother Church to hold her Anniversaries during the month of October—since the dedication of the present church edifice took place in that month—it was deemed advisable to defer the completion of the Centennial Jubilee until that time. Consequently plans were matured for a 10 days' celebration in October. All of the Methodist Episcopal Churches were invited to co-operate in the plan. This being the time when the Mother was 100 years old, it became clear that it would express love and gratitude if the children would come home to see the mother. Thus accordingly the services were planned to be held in the Mother Church. And it certainly was a great sight to see 16 churches uniting in praise and holy Thanksgiving to God for His wonderful works to the children of men.

The first service began on Friday evening, October 8,

1909. His Excellency, John Franklin Fort, Governor of New Jersey, was present and graced the occasion. His promise to deliver for us an address at this time, put a desire in our hearts to show him some special mark of courtesy. Accordingly a banquet was planned at which he should be the guest of honor. The banquet was held in the dining room of the church. To this banquet every one was invited provided the stipulated sum be paid which indeed was but a meagre charge. The banquet hall was beautifully decorated and many guests were present. The four former pastors of the Mother Church, who are now living responded to toasts. Thus Revs. W. W. Moffett, Geo. B. Wight, Wesley A. Hunsberger and John Handley made after-dinner speeches that were indeed interesting and inspiring. The Hon. Charles VanDyke Joline, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Camden, being present, was called upon to speak. In a very felicitous and appropriate manner he delighted his hearers. It was a great pleasure to have the Judge present on that occasion. While it was stated that Governor Fort would deliver his address in the auditorium, yet there was a feeling that would not subside that he must say a few words in the banquet hall. The Governor graciously responded and then the people repaired to the auditorium where a Methodist Mass Meeting, presided over by the Rev. Sanford M. Nichols, Ph. D., District Superintendent of the Camden District, was held. The Governor was at his best. He seemed very much inspired over the thought of his Methodist training and of the conquest of the church of Jesus Christ. His words were words of grace seasoned with salt and his statement of doctrine fastened him and his hearers to the old land marks of divine truth. Surely no greater service could have been given to the event than that contributed by Governor Fort.

On Sunday October 19th in the morning, Rev. Charles L. Mead, D. D., of Hoboken, N. J., preached the sermon. His theme was, "A Century's Progress," and so well did he handle his subject that the audience felt encouraged to undertake greater work for God. In the afternoon at the Sunday school session a Centennial service was held. The Intermediate and Assembly departments were congregated together and Rev. W. A. Hunsberger, D. D., a former pastor delivered the address, which was forceful and fitting. In fact it is not probable that Dr. Hunsberger ever did better than at that time. His theme, delivery and Spirit preeminently fitted the occasion. At this service also Brother W. S. Carter of Brooklyn, N. Y., who was a Sunday school scholar in the Mother church 75 years ago spoke a few words. It was refreshing to hear him refer to the work of the Sunday school in the first of all churches built in Camden. In the evening Rev. John Handley, D. D., a former pastor, now District Superintendent of the New Brunswick District preached an excellent sermon on "Visions." His text was, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Thus the day ended with visions of a glorious future.

On Monday evening every class meeting of the city was requested to meet in the Mother church. The weather was very inclement. However, there was a fine audience present. The mingled testimonies and prayers with the spirited singing made this a Love Feast never to be forgotten. It revealed very clearly that the class meeting has not outlived its usefulness in Camden.

On Tuesday evening Sunday school workers and those interested in this great work were invited to a Sunday school Centennial service. Inasmuch as the Sunday school

is the church's recruiting station the event could not pass without great emphasis being laid upon the necessity of a lively interest in this cause. Hence an expert in this work was selected to address the people Rev. Edward S. Lewis, D. D., assistant editor of the Sunday School Journal, came with his valuable information concerning this cause. Although there was not a large audience present, nevertheless interest in the Sunday school was awakened.

Wednesday evening was indeed a Red Letter Service in the Centennial Jubilee. Every Prayer Meeting assembled in the home church. There was a roll call and every church but one responded. Every church took some part in the service. It was a time when Methodism was with one accord in one place and there seemed a repetition of the Day of Pentecost. The influence of that meeting will never be lost. Many testified that it was the most wonderful prayer meeting they ever attended.

Thursday evening there was a great musical festival by the choir. A cantata, "The Song of Thanksgiving," was splendidly and artistically rendered. The choir that always does itself credit, went beyond anticipation in this musical. Very few audiences ever hear sung such a "Song of Thanksgiving" ending with, "The Hallelujah Chorus," as was enjoyed that night. It was worthy of the occasion and very clearly expressed the gratitude of the heart for God's guidance and blessing during the century.

Friday evening was set apart for a celebration by all Epworth League Chapters of the city. All the Presidents of the different chapters were invited to a seat on the platform. Mr. S. Earl Taylor, who has traveled exten-

sively in behalf of the Missionary cause was present and stirred the people as he spoke on, "The World Wide Kingdom." Everyone felt he must do something to extend the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour.

Saturday evening a large audience assembled to hear Rev. W. R. Wedderspoon, D. D., of Pittsburg, Pa., formerly a member of the New Jersey Conference, lecture on, "The Real Aristocracy." All were ready to conclude that the Methodist Episcopal Church had contributed very largely to, "The Real Aristocracy" and that Camden Methodism had not failed in this respect. Dr. Wedderspoon's lecture and his inimitable style gratified the people very highly.

On Sunday Morning, October 17th, Rev. Sanford M. Nichols, Ph. D., the District Superintendent, preached. He was very happy in the selection of his theme, "First Things First." "Make me a little cake first," was his text. In the delivery of his sermon there was evidence that when the sermon was written, the preacher had dipped the pen in his own heart. In fact during the preaching, the audience could feel the pulsations of the preacher's heart. It was reckoned a great discourse. In the evening Dr. Wedderspoon preached from the text, "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by name." His discourse claimed the attention of all and his magnetic influence added very much to the delivery of the same.

Tuesday and Wednesday evening were set apart as purely evangelistic services. Three of the boys who went out from the Mother Church into the ministry were the preachers, Rev. Edward Mount, of Williamstown, N. J.;

Rev. Orville S. Duffield, of Pedricktown, N. J., and Rev. Samuel B. Goff Jr., of the Philadelphia Conference. These boys all acquitted themselves splendidly and thus made the Mother feel glad that she has thus contributed towards the preaching of the Gospel of the Son of God.

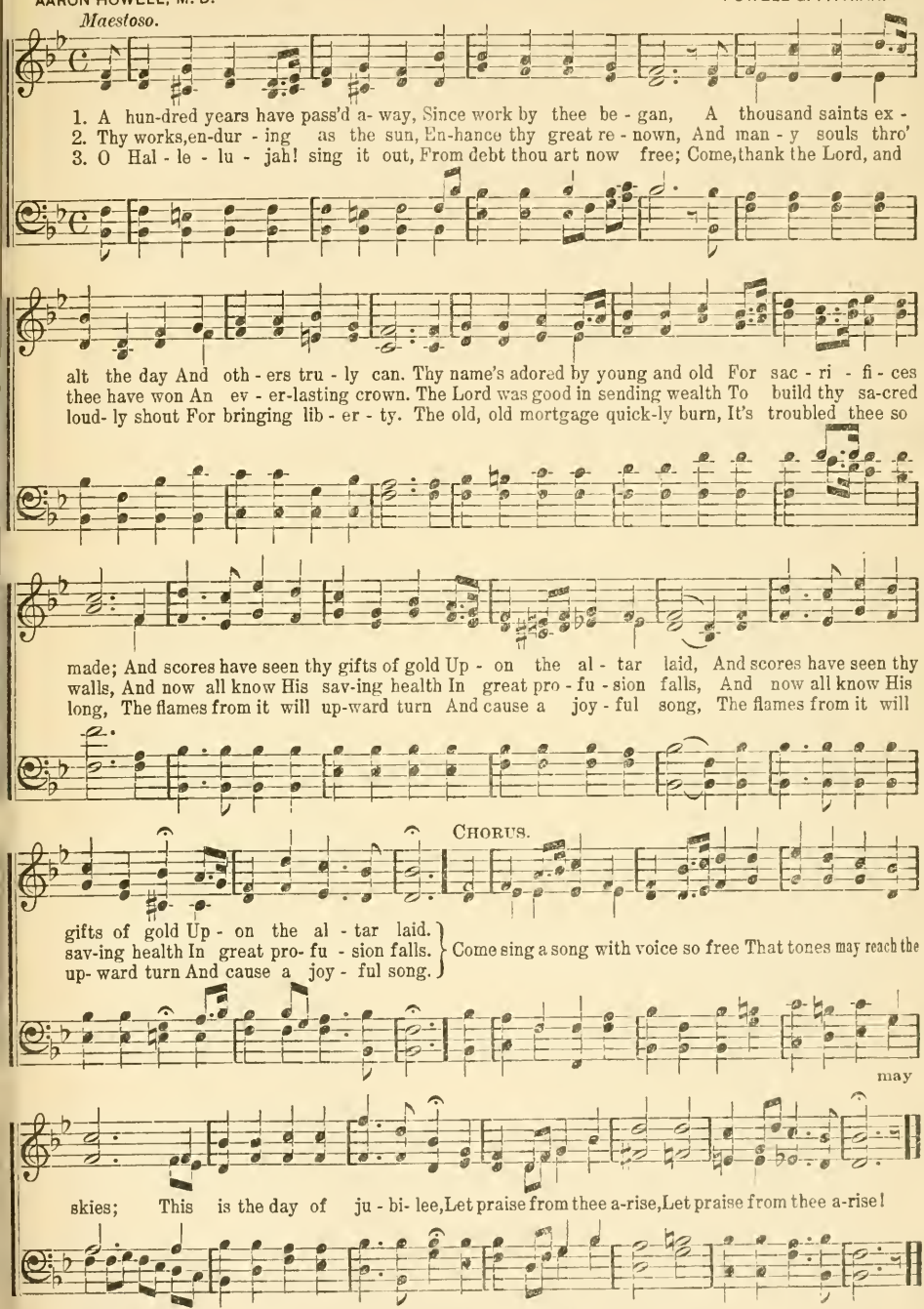
Two other boys, Rev. Chas. H. Elder because of special care for his health and Rev. Isaac Woodward on account of distance could not be present. Thus the Centennial Service closed with a feeling that we must enter the new century with an understanding that, "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." But such encouragement to work was given by a resume of the past that all felt like shouting, "We are able to possess it!"

The following is a hymn composed by Dr. Aaron Howell, a member of the Quarterly Conference of Centenary church, and set to music by Professor Powell G. Fithian, the organist and a member of the Quarterly Conference of the First Church. It was sung several times and deserves to have a place in the history of Camden Methodism and to be handed down to the coming generation who may see the talent and devoted interest of our laymen during this age.

The Old Church.

AARON HOWELL, M. D. POWELL G. FITHIAN.

Maestoso.


1. A hun-dred years have pass'd a- way, Since work by thee be - gan, A thousand saints ex -
2. Thy works, en-dur - ing as the sun, En-hance thy great re - nown, And man - y souls thro'
3. O Hal - le - lu - jah! sing it out, From debt thou art now free; Come, thank the Lord, and
alt the day And oth - ers tru - ly can. Thy name's adored by young and old For sac - ri - fi - ces
thee have won An ev - er-lasting crown. The Lord was good in sending wealth To build thy sa-cred
loud- ly shout For bringing lib - er - ty. The old, old mortgage quick-ly burn, It's troubled thee so
made; And scores have seen thy gifts of gold Up - on the al - tar laid, And scores have seen thy
walls, And now all know His sav-ing health In great pro - fu - sion falls, And now all know His
long, The flames from it will up-ward turn And cause a joy - ful song, The flames from it will
CHORUS.
gifts of gold Up - on the al - tar laid.
sav-ing health In great pro- fu - sion falls.
up- ward turn And cause a joy - ful song.
Come sing a song with voice so free That tones may reach the
may
skies; This is the day of ju - bi- lee, Let praise from thee a-rise, Let praise from thee a-rise!
reach the skies;

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